



STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
789 Vermont National Guard Road
Colchester, Vermont 05446-3099

NGVT-TAG

31 March 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM)

1. April is when both civilian and military communities observe Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). This month offers us the opportunity to continue promoting awareness and look for ways to improve outreach and support to victims while also expanding efforts on prevention. All of our members, regardless of rank, duty position, or job specialty, must work to prevent sexual assault, sexual harassment and reprisal against those who report these events. We cannot tolerate it in our formations and we must support our survivors to the best of our ability.
2. Statistics show that sexual assault remains one of the most underreported crimes. While there are many reasons for this, the Vermont National Guard is committed to believing survivors and providing every resource and tool available to reduce the stigma for those who come forward to report. Reporting a sexual assault shows a member of our team trusts the National Guard to hold those who commit sexual assault crimes accountable. When survivors come forward to report these crimes, it may prevent the offenders from harming anyone else and help to decrease the prevalence rate of sexual assaults within our organization. Don't let perpetrators get away with it.
3. Our efforts to combat sexual assaults are effective. According to the Unit Risk Inventories and the Unit Climate Assessments, the Vermont National Guard showed a decrease in negative command climates and an increase in awareness of reporting options and trust in command. Preventing sexual assault, sexual harassment, and retaliation is one of our top priorities, but we still have much work to do. We are holding our leaders accountable and will provide the best training available to ensure they know the most effective ways to prevent, respond, and report sexual assaults.
4. Support your Vermont National Guard SAPR/SHARP team and get involved in this month's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month activities in person and on social media. Together, we can work to further reduce, with the goal to eliminate, sexual assault from the Vermont National Guard. Our military is one of the most trusted

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institutions in America. Committing, or tolerating sexual harassment and sexual assault violates that trust. These aberrant actions must not threaten those who have volunteered to serve – they deserve better.

5. There are several programs in Vermont which assist with sexual violence concerns, such as the Vermont Network and its member programs (<http://www.vtnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/MAP22012.pdf> and **1-800-489-7273**), the Pride Center SafeSpace Support Line (<http://www.pridecentervt.org/programs/safespace> & **1-866-869-7341**), the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services (<http://www.ccvv.state.vt.us/helpnowvt> & **1-800-489-7273**), and the Vermont Veterans' Affairs Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator (<http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp> & **1-866-687-8387** x5766). The DOD also provides an anonymous online, texting and telephone hotline to provide immediate crisis support to sexual assault victims. Their website is www.Safehelpline.org or you may call 877-995-5247 or text 55-247.

6. The POC for this memorandum is Nikki Sorrell, the Vermont JFHQ Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), who can be reached 24/7 at (802) 324-9225.

GREGORY C. KNIGHT
Major General
The Adjutant General

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