National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month—April 2016

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. The Army's theme is "Sexual Assault. Sexual Harassment. Not in Our Army." Although we recognize preventive efforts during this month, make no mistake this theme must remain a year-round commitment for every member of the Army Team.

The American people send us their sons and daughters with the expectation we will protect, develop, and employ them to fight and win our Nation's wars. We accomplish this through a ready, capable, and professional force that takes care of its own.

Therefore, we remain personally committed to eliminating sexual assault and harassment from our Army. Such behavior has no place in a disciplined military force. The American public looks to the Army for leadership—and we will not fail in that mission.

Command engagement is crucial to preventing sexual violence and retaliation against those who report or witness an offense. We rely on leaders to set and enforce standards that ensure a healthy command climate for all Soldiers. If offenses occur, we expect leaders to ensure compassionate care for the victims and to hold offenders appropriately accountable.

We also believe that committed, engaged leadership down to the squad level along with prevention campaigns are crucial to our success. We encourage everyone to re-energize these efforts.

Every Soldier, Army Civilian, and Family member deserves to be and will be treated with dignity and respect. Sexual assault, sexual harassment, and retaliation have no place in our Army and are detrimental to combat readiness. As Army leaders, all of us have a duty to uphold our values by ensuring an Army free of sexual violence.

Army Strong!

Daniel A. Dailey Sergeant Major of the Army	Mark A. Milley General, United States Army Chief of Staff	Patrick J. Murphy Acting Secretary of the Army