DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 15TH REGIMENTAL SIGNAL BRIGADE
FORT GORDON, GEORGIA 30905-5729

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

ATZH-TB

23 November 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Policy Letter #10: 15th RSB Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

1. Purpose. To prescribe an 15th RSB Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program policy committed to the elimination of sexual assault.

2. Applicability. This policy applies to all service members and Department of Defense (DOD) personnel within 15th RSB units or within units assigned, attached or tenant units to the Brigade. It applies during and after hours, regardless of location and environment. This policy will remain in effect until rescinded.

3. Sexual Assault is a criminal offense that:

a. Degrades mission readiness.

b. Devastates a unit's ability to work effectively as team.

c. Is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military justice (UCMJ).

4. General.

Sexual assault and sexual harassment now fall within the parameters of Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP) Program.

a. Sexual assault is a crime defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

b. Sexual Assault includes rape, forcible sodomy (oral or anal sex), and other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful (to include unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts.

c. "Consent" means words or overt acts indication a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent.

(1) Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the accused use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent.

(2) A current or previous dating relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the sexual conduct at issue shall not constitute consent.

5. I expect personnel in my command, supervisory, and leadership positions at every level to be personally committed to and involved in our sexual assault prevention and response program.

6. Commanders must:

(a) Eliminate risk-factors which threaten a safe environment throughout the command.

(b) Ensure there is an available response system for all victims of sexual assault with prompt, professional, and compassionate care.

(c) Execute prevention and awareness training.

7. Responsibilities.

a. Soldiers must react immediately to stop assaults before they start and take steps to ensure their battle buddies avoid situations where such assaults can occur. It is the duty of each of us as teammates to intervene and protect one another from harassment and the risk of sexual assault.

b. Battalion Commanders will:

(1) Designate Unit Victim Advocates (UVAs) and ensure they receive the proper training.

(2) Be responsible to provide victims the care and compassion they deserve. Leader involvement is the key to getting victims the care they need to return to health.

8. Commanders and their respective first sergeants and command sergeants major will complete the ISARC provided sexual assault awareness training within the first 45 days of assuming the command position.

9. Unit Organic Sexual Assault assets must be available to:

a. Effect training

b. Manage Unit programs and awareness efforts.

c. Advise commanders and respond to victims.

10. Victims, using either the restricted or unrestricted reporting:

a. Will be paired with the ISARC/IVA immediately. The Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Hotline is available 24 hrs per day/ 7 days per week Military One Source, CONUS(800) 655-4545, International Toll Free (dial all 11 numbers) (800) 3429-6477, and International Collect (484) 530-5947 for the purpose of victim support, information, and referrals.

11. I expect all personnel to be familiar with the DoD Confidentiality Policy and the options of restricted versus unrestricted reporting.

a. The DoD's Confidentiality Policy permits victims of sexual assault to report crime to specified individuals who can then ensue the victim receives medical care, treatment, advocacy, and counseling without notifying command or law enforcement officials.

b. Covered individuals include the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

(1) Victim Advocates (VAs)

(2) Healthcare providers

(3) Chaplains

c. Leaders must educated Soldiers on how to access covered individuals without divulging information that might preclude their report from remaining restricted if that is the reporting option they prefer.

d. Leaders should encourage Soldiers to contact VAs and SARCs in order to ensure that Soldiers make educated decision regarding their options.

e. "All members of this command will be protected from reprisal or retaliation for filing complaints. No employee or Soldier may take or threaten to take an unfavorable personnel action, or to withhold or threaten to withhold a favorable action, in reprisal against any person for filing a complaint."

12. The 15th RSB UVA can be contacted at 706-791-1106 and the EO Advisor can be contacted at 791-6517 respectively.

JOSEPH K. LAYTON
COL, SC
Commanding

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CDR, 551st Signal BN
CDR, 447th Signal BN
CDR, 369th Signal BN
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S1
S2
S3
S4
Chaplain