



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

JUL 03 2013

JUN 20 2013

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter  
U.S. House of Representative  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Slaughter:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Chuck Hagel and Major General Gary Patton requesting that the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office undertake a formal review of all materials distributed to Service members as part of the official activities of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program. SAPR falls under my purview and I have been asked to respond.

Secretary Hagel, General Patton, and I share your concerns about ensuring victims receive the appropriate support and resources. We have reviewed the Shaw Air Force Base brochure you mentioned in your letter. We share your concerns over some of the materials presented, and the Air Force has withdrawn the brochure from circulation.

The Department of Defense is fully committed to a culture of dignity and respect, where every Service member is valued. This work is most effectively accomplished by the Services engaging in every aspect of their SAPR programs, to include the development and distribution of program training and prevention materials.

As such, Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention Response Office and the Services have recently created consistent standards for all SAPR training conducted throughout the Department. Those standards were developed after significant review, evaluation, and the sharing of best practices. Curriculum and material development is underway, and in some cases, the new training is already being conducted. We are confident that this standardization will produce greater consistency across the Services on DoD-wide SAPR training, and SAPR-related materials. Our DoD and Service SAPRO staffs will continue to exercise oversight and quality control in this area to ensure these intended effects.

Sexual assault is one of the most serious challenges facing the Department and our leadership has no higher priority than the safety and welfare of our men and women in uniform. I deeply appreciate your assistance in helping us address this challenge.

Sincerely,

  
Jessica L. Wright  
Acting