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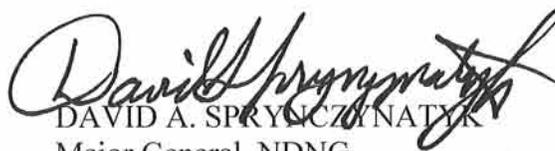
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31 March 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) – April 2011

1. Each year in April the Department of Defense and National Guard observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This year's theme is **"Hurts one--Affects all. Preventing sexual assault is everyone's duty."**
2. As part of April's activities, I encourage every leader in the North Dakota National Guard to call attention to the damage sexual assault causes, not only to an individual, but to overall readiness and unit cohesion. We are all leaders in this area and we must work together to change the culture that allows sexual assaults to occur.
3. All leaders also have the responsibility to create a climate where each of our Service Members feel respected and are treated with dignity. In order to fulfill any state or federal mission, we rely on our biggest resource – our people. Our overall climate must always reflect respect for all. If a climate exists which tolerates sexual assault, we've done a serious disservice to our greatest asset -- our Soldiers and Airmen.
4. Sexual assault prevention must focus on stopping offenders before they act and by teaching bystanders to safely intervene when they recognize inappropriate behaviors that may lead to sexual assault. We can do this by ensuring Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and Victim Advocates (VAs) conduct annual prevention training for all of our Soldiers and Airmen and that, as leaders, we are visibly supporting the training.
5. General Craig McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau said it best when he said "Sexual assault degrades mission readiness and is at odds with our core values." It is the responsibility of all men and women in the North Dakota National Guard to Never let Your Guard down. Remember, preventing sexual assault is EVERYONE'S duty.

  
DAVID A. SPRYNCZYNATYK  
Major General, NDNG  
The Adjutant General