MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Immediate Actions-Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program

1. Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Assault, as well as response to victims of these crimes, is our #1 priority. In keeping with this, Commanders and leaders at all levels will weight this main effort accordingly. We own this problem; we will solve it by working together.

2. Recent events demonstrate the critical importance of selecting the right personnel for the SHARP program. I want to emphasize the importance of personally interviewing and selecting the best qualified personnel. Your SHARP team are your top leaders, second only to your commanders. They must be of the highest moral, ethical, and professional character. To meet these standards, you will immediately rescreen SHARP personnel at all levels. If screening identifies issues, take immediate, appropriate action to reassign personnel. Further guidance on retraining will follow. While the NDAA requires you to appoint full-time personnel at the Brigade level, I ask you to consider appointing full-time personnel at levels above and below Brigade as well.

3. Sexual assaults are violent crimes that are devastating to victims. Such crimes diminish readiness and resiliency throughout the Army. Everyone must understand their roles and responsibilities in the prevention of sexual assaults and remain committed to the Army's I.A.M. Strong campaign and our main effort. These efforts require strong leadership, a healthy unit climate, adherence to Army Values, and respect for the bonds of trust which run to all members of our Army Family.

4. We are currently failing in our mission to eradicate assaults and harassment from our ranks. We must investigate every allegation of sexual assault or harassment thoroughly and professionally and take appropriate actions to establish a command climate and culture of mutual respect, trust, and safety. Our formation must be confident that complaints will be handled quickly and decisively, and that our system will deliver justice and protection throughout the reporting, investigation, and adjudication process.
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5. There are no bystanders in this effort. We are all accountable. Just as we have defeated every enemy we have faced, we will defeat this enemy within our ranks. Make this your top priority—one assault is one too many.

DANIEL W. WHITNEY
COL, SF
Commanding

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