

Commander's Call Topics



April 9, 2015

"The first step toward change is awareness.
The second step is acceptance."

Nathaniel Branden, Ph.D.
American Psychologist
(b. 1930)

By Presidential Proclamation
[April is National
Sexual Assault Awareness and
Prevention Month](#)

Awareness and Action Add up to Progress

"It's on us."

It's safe to say that anyone watching the NCAA championship games saw the "It's On Us" ads that ran consistently throughout. The public awareness campaign was initiated by the White House in September 2014 as a way of calling attention to the scope of the sexual assault problem, identifying effective responses and engaging everyone to skillfully and successfully intervene. It also encourages bystanders to take (some) responsibility for prevention.

According to [Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer](#), the Air Force has made significant progress in sexual assault prevention and response (SAPR) efforts, and examples can be found on AF.mil in the article [Preventing sexual assault in the Air Force is our enduring responsibility](#).

In January of this year, top Air Force leaders initiated a Sexual Assault Prevention Summit, a five-day gathering attended by about 150 Airmen from all ranks and demographics. Its purpose, according to [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James'](#) keynote, was to produce "a better understanding of sexual assault prevention and ... ways to operationalize prevention policy and tactics."

Airmen were encouraged to be candid in their discussions and breakout sessions. "If we don't talk about this, we can't fix it," Spencer said.

Awareness of a problem is just the beginning of a solution. The plan was to think beyond just awareness and arrive at programs that prevent sexual assault. Awareness, in and of itself, will not create the individual or societal changes needed to stop sexual assault.

Actions have consequences, and progress in sexual assault prevention and response efforts can best be realized with a corresponding cultural commitment that fosters changing the atmosphere that enables the behavior. Awareness without action will not create the individual and societal changes that are needed to stop sexual assault.

The January summit produced the following behavioral guidelines:

- Model healthy respectful behavior in every relationship.
- Access and use resources that teach skills to foster healthy sexuality and healthy relationships.
- Speak up and step in when you hear sexist jokes or language, or see someone at risk for perpetrating violence.
- Consider what actions might inadvertently reinforce sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and sexual assault – including sexual hazing – and take steps to create a culture where healthy, respectful relationships are encouraged and violence is not tolerated.

This is not a definitive list of model behaviors that will shape Air Force policy. It's just the beginning of an evolving course of action that aligns with Air Force core values. It's on us.

TRENDING....

"For the last couple of years what we have essentially been doing is trying to take this resource-limited environment, and the changing world around us, and turn it into a reset of the Air Force," said [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) at the April 2 [Air Force Association's monthly](#) breakfast.

► RESOURCES

Website access to the following resources can be gained by clicking on the name.

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[Military OneSource/HomeFront](#)

[Air Force Personnel Center](#)

[Air Reserve Personnel Center](#)

[Department of Defense News](#)

[Department of Veteran Affairs](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[U.S. Government Website](#)

[Air Force Association Scholarships](#)

[Air Force Safety Center](#)

[Civil Service Employment Opportunities](#)

[NAF Employment Opportunities](#)

[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

April 9, 1997 – Lockheed Martin and Boeing rolled out the F-22 at the Marietta plant.

April 10, 1974 - C-130 Hercules aircraft, crews and communicators supported Operation Nimbus Star to sweep the Suez Canal free of mines and other obstacles to navigation.

April 11, 1918 - The 1st Aero Squadron, I Corps Observation Group, equipped with bi-plane Spads, made the first U.S. observation patrol over enemy lines in World War I.

April 12 1966 - Strategic Air Command B-52s hit targets in North Vietnam for the first time, when they attacked a supply route in the Mu Gia Pass, 85 miles north of the border.

April 13, 1925 - Henry Ford started airplane freight operations between Detroit and Chicago. This was the first regularly scheduled commercial freight operation in the U.S.

April 14, 1970 - The Minuteman III deployment in North Dakota began when Minot AFB accepted its first missile. It arrived on board a C-141 from Hill AFB, Utah, in the first airlift of an operational Minuteman III.

April 15, 1972 - The last F-100 Super Sabre left USAFE.



► CURRENT ISSUES

[What's your social thumbprint?](#)

Information sharing, social media, e-networking can all be done from the comfort of the couch, but is it too much of a good thing?

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Total force SMSgt evaluation static closeout date to be July 31](#)

Establishment of a July 31 enlisted performance report static closeout date (SCOD) for regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve senior master sergeants is effective as of April 3.

[Military couples can serve concurrent short tours at Kunsan](#)

A March 25 policy change is enabling active-duty military couples to serve 12-month unaccompanied tours simultaneously with their military spouses.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[CSAF describes Air Force of the future](#)

The core mission probably won't change, but new technologies, new methods and new domains will alter the way the mission is carried out, and the budget and the economy will have a lot to do with how the Air Force looks.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>

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