



**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS – COLORADO
COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD
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JFHQ-SARC

1 April 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2013

1. April is designated as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This observance provides us an opportunity to recommit our efforts to eliminate sexual assault in the Colorado National Guard (CONG). The theme for SAAM 2013, “Hurts One. Affects All...Preventing sexual assault is everyone’s duty,” encourages each guard member to get involved in the prevention of sexual assault.
2. In 1998 Italian politicians and lawyers reacted angrily against an appeals court verdict that said a woman could not have been raped because she was wearing jeans, when the Italian Supreme Court overturned the rape conviction of a 45-year-old driving instructor, saying there was not enough evidence that he raped his 18-year-old student. In its ruling, the court said: “It is common knowledge ... that jeans cannot even be partly removed without the effective help of the person wearing them ... and it is impossible if the victim is struggling with all her might.” They also argued that “because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them ... and by removing the jeans ... it was no longer rape but consensual sex.”
3. Six women members of Parliament demonstrated in front of the lower house building, wearing jeans and holding signs that read “Jeans: the alibi for rape.” Now, Denim Day is an international awareness effort started in 1999 in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month as a protest of an Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction. Denim Day also helps to dispel myths and educating people about sexual assault.
4. Every year since 1999, Peace Over Violence has organized Denim Day USA. It is a rape prevention education campaign, where we ask community members, elected officials, businesses and students to make a social statement with their fashion statement and on this day wear jeans as a visible means of protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault.
5. The Adjutant General, MG H. Michael Edwards, has authorized the CONG to wear jeans on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 in participation of this campaign. If you wear jeans they can not have holes and must be professional in appearance. .
6. Questions may be directed to MAJ Alisa Englert, Colorado National Guard Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), at (720) 250-1082, (303) 913-2680 or at alisa.m.englert.mil@mail.mil.

///ORIGINAL SIGNED///

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