



Hundreds Join First Pentagon Courtyard to Combat Sexual Assault Prevention Efforts

ARLINGTON, Va. (April 22, 2015) – Stopping sexual assault among members of the military and their families and raising awareness of everyone's role in increasing prevention of and response to such incidents was endorsed by more than 500 people in the first-ever Walk-a-Lap in the Pentagon's courtyard on April 15. MajGen Juan G. Ayala, Commander, MCICOM, helped lead the support of MCICOM staff members, other Marines, civilians, and members from across all Services who joined in the walk.

Walk participants could also visit booths set up around the courtyard that distributed information on services available to help victims, hotlines and websites for assistance and support, and measures every individual can use to advance prevention or response to sexual assault. This included opportunities to create a custom t-shirt as part of the Clothesline Project, talk with *Spilled Milk* author K.L. Randis, sexual assault survivor and victim's advocate, receive details on the Department of Defense international SafeHelpline, and learn more about intervention methods.

"Today really shows the Pentagon community's stance against sexual assault," says Karoline Hay, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, MCICOM, who was instrumental in planning and executing the unique Walk-a-Lap event. "We have a lot of volunteers helping to get information out on help available to victims and how people can learn about preventing assaults from occurring in the first place."

Walk-a-Lap was just one of the learning events planned during Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. Additional activities at the Pentagon include:

- April 22 – "*Victims' Rights Training*" Pentagon Library Conference Center Room B6 (12:30pm-1:45pm).
- April 24 – "*Eliminate Sexual Assault – Know Your Part, Do Your Part*" a panel discussion in the Pentagon Library Conference Center Room B6 (9:00am-12:00pm).
- April 24 – "*Stalking and Sexual Assault*" an address by Michelle M. Garcia, Director of the Stalking Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime in the Pentagon Conference Center, Room B6 (1:00pm-3:00pm).

For more information on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, visit www.sapr.mil. For more information about MCICOM, please contact the Public Affairs Officer, Marine Corps Installations Command, Rex Runyon (rex.runyon@usmc.mil).

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