

AMC SHARP Task Force assesses command climate

By Lira Frye
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Reaffirming his commitment to eradicate sexual assault in the command's ranks, Gen. Dennis Via, commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command, appointed a senior executive as his special assistant to lead a Sexual Harassment and Assault Response Program Assurance Task Force.

The task force's charter includes reviewing AMC SHARP policy and procedures and conducting sensing sessions and site visits across the command to assess the command climate necessary to rid AMC of sexual harassment and sexual assaults.

"Sexual harassment and assault are contrary to Army values," Via said. "I am committed to fostering a culture that eliminates both from our ranks."

From now through July, task force representatives from Equal Employment Opportunity, Equal Opportunity, Chaplain and Inspector General's offices will meet with commanders and employees in all of AMC's major subordinate commands.

"Our goal is to ensure that everyone understands the difference between sexual assault and sexual harassment, understands the options available to them and that no one is left behind," said Task Force Director Myra Gray. "Ultimately, we want to ensure an environment of dignity, respect and trust where no harassment or assault exists."

The sensing sessions will include a cross section of military and civilian volunteers from each organization. Sessions will last about an hour with the opportunity for attendees to talk one-on-one with facilitators. Results will help leaders better understand the command's climate, identify issues that may need to be addressed, and shape training to achieve the desired results.

As part of the Army's SHARP stand down, AMC's largely civilian workforce - 96 percent of its 73,000 employees - will also participate in SHARP training.

"Conducting training in small groups where supervisors are engaged with their subordinates produces the most effective results," Via said. "I intend for leaders to initiate interactive discussions on our responsibilities for maintaining a climate of dignity and respect and our Army values. It's imperative we make sure everyone understands the difference between sexual harassment and sexual assault, and how they adversely impact AMC and Army readiness."

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ACC workforce celebrates Army's 238th Birthday



(Photo by Betsy Kozak-Howard)

Members of ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., participated in an APG-wide run June 12 to celebrate the Army's 238th Birthday. Soldiers with the 926th Contingency Contracting Battalion led the organization with its civilian employees rounding out the ACC-APG formation. Following the run and the singing of the Army song, participants were treated with cake and refreshments.



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

Amassed in formation, Soldiers and civilians with the Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., render honors to the colors prior to joining their counterparts from the Army Materiel Command in a fun run/walk to help celebrate the Army's 238th Birthday.

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