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FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
TO ALDODACT

SUBJ: STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
UNCLASSIFIED/
ALDODACT 16/11
ADDRESSEES PASS TO ALL SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
DECEMBER 23, 2011

TO ALL SERVICE MEMBERS, THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO EVERY DAY ON BEHALF OF OUR COUNTRY. I CANNOT BE MORE PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU REPRESENT AS YOU SERVE AND SACRIFICE FOR OUR GREAT NATION. WITH THAT HONOR, IS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SHOW BY EXAMPLE OUR CORE VALUES THAT DEMAND WE TREAT EVERYONE WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT AT ALL TIMES.

RECENTLY, WE HAVE SEEN INCIDENTS OF BULLYING, HAZING, AND ACTIONS THAT SHOW POOR JUDGMENT. THE FEW THAT CHOOSE THE WRONG PATH CAST A NEGATIVE LIGHT ON OUR COLLECTIVE ETHOS, OUR SERVICE, AND ALL THAT WE REPRESENT.

IN THAT VEIN, LET ME BE CLEAR. I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY INSTANCE WHERE ONE SERVICE MEMBER INFLICTS ANY FORM OF PHYSICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE THAT DEGRADES, INSULTS, DEHUMANIZES, OR INJURES ANOTHER SERVICE MEMBER. WE WILL PROTECT EACH OTHER THROUGH FAIR, SCRUPULOUS, AND UNBIASED TREATMENT AS INDIVIDUALS - CARING FOR THEM, TEACHING THEM, AND LEADING THEM. IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF EACH MEMBER IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND TO ENSURE HAZING IS NOT ALLOWED AND THAT ALL SERVICE MEMBERS ARE TREATED, AT ALL TIMES, WITH GENUINE DIGNITY, FAIRNESS, AND RESPECT.

FOR COMMANDERS, I WANT YOU TO PERSONALLY REVIEW YOUR RESPECTIVE SERVICE POLICIES AND ENSURE STRICT COMPLIANCE. THIS HAS MY PERSONAL ATTENTION, AS WE CONTINUE OUR COMBAT MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN, ~~TRANSITION FROM OUR CAMPAIGN IN IRAQ, AND CONTINUE OUR GLOBAL~~ PRESENCE PERFORMING OUR NATION'S DUTIES - I NEED YOU TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS A PRIORITY WITHIN YOUR COMMANDS AS THIS HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR FORCE READINESS.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR ALL THAT YOU DO. MAY GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES NOT ONLY THROUGH THE HOLIDAY SEASON BUT, ALSO THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.

//LEON E. PANETTA//
BT
#1801