From: Secor, Kevin

To: <u>Undisclosed recipients:</u>
Subject: HAVE YOU HEARD?

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April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which provides VA an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to supporting Veterans who have experienced Military Sexual Trauma (MST). This year's national theme is "Outreach to Veterans Who Experienced MST: Opening Doors and Building Bridges," to highlight the importance of ensuring all Veterans are aware of the free MST-related services VA provides. About one in five women and one in a hundred men seen in VA medical facilities report they have experienced MST-- that is, sexual assault or repeated, threatening sexual harassment that occurred during military service. MST can affect Veterans' physical and mental health for many years afterward. To assist in recovery, treatment for MST-related physical and mental health conditions is available at every VHA facility and provided to Veterans free of charge, regardless of service-connection status. Veterans may be able to receive this free MST-related care, even if they are not eligible for other VA care. Every VHA facility has an MST Coordinator who serves as a point person for Veterans and staff. Every VA employee has the power to help Veterans recover from MST by responding sensitively to inquiries about MST, remaining knowledgeable about VA's MST-related services, and ensuring information about Veterans' MST status is kept confidential. For more information, contact your facility's MST Coordinator, or visit the MST Resource home page at http://vaww.mst.va.gov. Veterans can access information at www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp.