

SEXUAL ASSAULT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
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FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

April 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Teal Hash # 15

1. At a General Court-Martial, a Staff Sergeant assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) was found guilty of Aggravated Sexual Assault, Abusive Sexual Contact, and Indecent Conduct. The Soldier was sentenced to confinement for 180 days and a bad-conduct discharge.
2. The Soldier met his victim at a night club in Austin, TX. The victim had been consuming alcohol that night and was visibly intoxicated. After she became separated from her friend at the night club, the Soldier, along with two other Soldiers accompanying him, took the victim from the night club back to their hotel room. With full knowledge that the victim was too intoxicated to consent to sexual activity, all three Soldiers proceeded to have sexual intercourse with the victim in full view of each other.
3. The perpetrator in this case was held accountable for his actions and punished. The victim in this case displayed great personal courage and unwavering perseverance throughout the investigative and court-martial processes.
4. This incident highlights some warning signs that individuals may look for and some of the precautions that people may consider in order to guard against sexual assault. A victim is typically female and relatively young, as was the victim here. This perpetrator preyed on the the victim's obvious intoxication and isolation from her friends to lure her to a secluded location. Soldiers and civilians alike can, and should, take steps to mitigate or eliminate risks by remaining vigilant and aware of their safety and the safety of their battle buddies at all times.
5. Commanders must be committed to eliminating incidents of sexual assault through a comprehensive policy that centers on awareness and prevention, training and education, victim advocacy, response, reporting and follow-up. Army policy promotes sensitive care and confidential reporting for victims of sexual assault and accountability for those who commit these crimes. We must all be prepared to act and intervene when something does not seem right. Intervention to prevent sexual harassment and assault, hazing, discrimination, or any other crime, misconduct, or violation of the Army Values is the standard, and we must all live up to it.

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CHRISTOPHER M. DONESKI
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Chief of Staff

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