

SEXUAL ASSAULT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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AFZF-JA

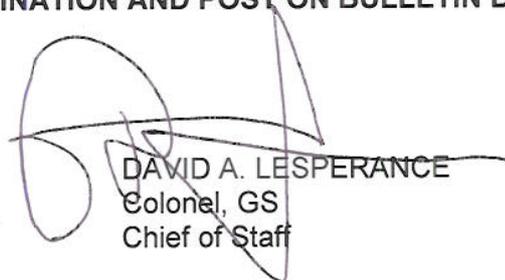
14 MAY 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Teal Hash #16

1. At a General Court-Martial, a Specialist assigned to A Company, Troop Command, Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, was found guilty of sexually assaulting two female Soldiers, each during a separate incident. The Soldier was sentenced to reduction to Private (E1), confinement for 6 years, and a dishonorable discharge from the Service.
2. Prior to each of these incidents, the perpetrator gained the trust and friendship of the victim. Then, he invited and encouraged the victim to drink a large amount of alcohol with him. Following heavy alcohol consumption, the perpetrator isolated the victim in a barracks room where he committed the sexual assault.
3. The perpetrator in this case was held accountable for his actions and punished. The victims in this case displayed great personal courage and unwavering perseverance throughout the investigative and court-martial processes.
4. These incidents highlight 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 often times knows the perpetrator. In both of these incidents, the perpetrator used friendship and alcohol to lure his victims into a false sense of security before sexually assaulting them. 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. 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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DAVID A. LESPERANCE
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