

Lead 6 Sends: Sexual Assault Message

Let me begin by saying thanks! My arrival and the welcome that I've received here at Fort Irwin are commensurate with true professionals. To be honest, it was the challenge of the mission and command that excited me about coming here, but now that I've been on the ground for a while, I've seen first-hand that it's the people that truly make Fort Irwin special.

I know how difficult it can be to adjust to a new CG and I want everyone to know that I truly appreciate the enormous efforts to fully integrate me into the battle rhythm. Not only are the efforts appreciated, but your many successes have not gone unnoticed.

In April, the Army officially observed "Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month". Let me take this opportunity, the first iteration of "Lead 6 Sends", to continue the effort and provide my thoughts on this topic.

I've recently recorded a radio commercial for KNTC entitled, "Not in Our Army". I don't think I can put it any simpler than that. While April was the official month of observance, this commercial will air regularly as an unfortunate reminder to all that this does happen; that we're all responsible for recognizing the behavior, reporting offenders, and caring for victims.

The crime of Sexual Assault or the offense of Sexual Harassment has no place in our ranks, or within our community. Actions of this type, or inactions of those who fail recognize the behavior or come to the aid of a victim do not belong in our ranks.

Hopefully it's obvious that I'm not just speaking about offenses committed by Soldiers or to Soldiers. While we're all part of the Army family, we all interact with many people as we go about our daily lives.

What I'm really saying is that now that we're all aware, let's use what we've learned and apply it to all of our activities on or off post. Think about it!

Many of us who have experienced combat have put our lives on the line to protect our teammates from falling in harm's way. When a teammate is injured in combat, nothing will stop us from protecting them from further harm and ensuring that they receive proper care. Why not approach Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in our ranks, in our community, the same way?

What are our core values? We instill the Army values and the Warrior Ethos into all we do. Consistent application of our core values will go a long way in preventing the crime of Sexual Assault and the Offense of Sexual harassment.

Sexual assault is a criminal offense that has no place in our Army or in our community. It is the duty of each and every member of this community to lead by example, live The Army Values, and establish a climate of no tolerance on or off the installation.

Equally important is that we create a supportive environment that encourages reporting and holds offenders accountable.

To learn more about the sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention program, contact your unit victim advocate (UVA), the installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), visit <http://www.fortirwinmwr.com/SHARP.html>, or call the 24/7 sexual assault hotline at 760-447-0305.

It is my goal to eliminate sexual assault and sexual harassment from Fort Irwin, MAKE IT YOURS.

Train The Force