

Lost Honor Discussion Guide

<u>TIME</u>	<u>I. INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
	<p><i>(NOTE: The goal of this discussion is to fight sexual assault by helping Marines understand 1) what conduct is a sex offense; 2) how predatory sexual behavior is not consistent with Core Values; 3) that there are lifelong consequences that stem from being a sex offender; and 4) that each Marine can prevent sexual assault by asking him or herself one question in sexual situations: "How do I know this is what he/she wants?"</i></p> <p><i>This guide is intended to start a discussion, but is not designed to specifically answer whether a particular factual scenario constitutes sexual assault. This guide lays out some practical guidelines regarding sexual assault to help Marines do the right thing. The context of those guidelines is important for a proper understanding.</i></p> <p><i>This training is only part of the effort to end sexual assault in the Marine Corps. As such, it focuses on alcohol-facilitated sexual assault and the consequences of sexual assault for the offender.)</i></p> <p>Presentation Leader: Good morning/afternoon, my name is _____ and I'm here to talk with you about sexual assault.</p> <p>An important reason we're having this talk about sexual assault is that many of you have sat through other training and thought, "I'm not a predator," or "I would never do that to another person," or, "It will never happen to me." But the reality is that the majority of people convicted of sexual assault in the Marine Corps aren't strangers lurking in the bushes or dark alleys. They're Marines much like you or me who made bad decisions to commit criminal acts in sexual situations, with lifelong consequences for their victims, their families and friends, and themselves. You need to know that this <i>could</i> happen to you.</p> <p>What's different about this training is that you will hear from real Marines, not actors. These are Marines who joined the Corps for the same reasons you did, who were doing well in the Marine Corps, who loved being Marines – and in their own words, they're going to tell you why they will now be labeled sex offenders for the rest of their lives.</p> <p>OK, one last point before we begin. The biggest takeaway from this talk is this: Next time you are in a situation that might lead to sex, ask yourself, "How do I know this is what he/she wants?"</p> <p>If you do that, I believe that you'll make the right decision, and keep your honor clean.</p> <p>II. VIDEO</p>	

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	<p>III. <u>DISCUSSION</u></p> <p>Presentation Leader: The Marines in the video were ordinary Marines, but they are now convicted sex offenders who have been justifiably held accountable for their actions. They are representative of most Marines convicted of sexual assault, and they once sat exactly where you are now sitting.</p> <p><i>(Break into predetermined small groups led by Sergeants and Staff Sergeants.)</i></p>	
<p>TIME</p>	<p><u>KEY POINT 1 – What is a Sex Offense?</u></p> <p>A. Two key elements – sexual touching of some kind & the victim didn’t want it</p> <p>Small Group Discussion Leader: Alright, so the first thing I want to discuss with you is what is a sexual assault? You heard some details of the acts that got the Marines in the videos in trouble. And maybe some of you were surprised that some of what they did was a crime. So let’s talk about that.</p> <p>Q. Does anyone know what article of the UCMJ sexual assault is in? <i>(Wait for responses.)</i></p> <p><i>(Where appropriate:)</i> That’s right/Ok, I’ll tell you. It’s Article 120. But let’s think about what the Marines in the videos talked about.</p> <p>Q. What did some of their stories have in common?</p> <p><i>(If alcohol is mentioned:)</i> Right - alcohol is important. It’s a factor in the majority of sexual assaults.</p> <p><i>(If sex is mentioned:)</i> That’s true to an extent, but did they all say they actually had sexual intercourse? <i>(Wait for response.)</i> It wasn’t always clear, right? Some of them said they touched their victim. But you’re right that even if it was touching, it was sexual touching. We’ll get into that a bit more in a minute.</p> <p><i>(If non-consent or lack of consent is mentioned.)</i> Excellent. So who knows what consent means? <i>(Wait for responses.)</i> OK a lot of good answers. Here’s the bottom line. If the other person doesn’t want to be touched, there is no consent. If the person is too drunk, or passed out, or in a position where they can’t know what they want, there is no consent.</p> <p>Some of you may be thinking, “How do I know what too drunk to consent is?” But the point is, consent can be a complicated issue, so if there’s any doubt, you should just do the right thing and step back from the situation.</p> <p>Remember, when you are in a situation that might lead to sex, ask yourself, “How do I know this is what he/she wants?”</p> <p>If you do that, I believe that you’ll make the right decision, and keep your honor clean.</p>	<p>REMARKS/NOTES</p>

B. Sexual Touching

Small Group Discussion Leader: Ok, so I mentioned that Article 120 includes everything from forcible rape to unwanted groping. Who knows why unwanted groping can be a crime? *(Wait for responses.)*

Good answers. Let's break it down. It's a crime because **you touched that person sexually when they didn't want you to**. What makes it sexual? When any part of your body touches any body part of another person, it's a sexual touching if done with an intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person. So, was it intended to turn you on? That's sexual. On the football field, you might slap a teammate's back to say, "good job." That is not sexual. But when you touch someone with the intent to get turned on, or to turn them on, even if it's not their breasts or genitals, that's a sexual touching. And if that person didn't want it, you could be a sex offender for the rest of your life.

Let's talk about Elie (*Pronounced Eli, like the quarterback.*) from the video. Not too uncommon right? Who can run down what happened?

(Wait for someone to recount the details, remind them of sequence by suggesting the following as appropriate.)

He's at a party.

Meets a female friend.

He's drinking.

She's drinking.

They go upstairs to a bedroom.

He thought it was good-to-go, and they were going to have some fun.

He touches her sexually. Now the video doesn't get into what that touching was or where it was. But you know what? A sexual touching can occur anywhere on the body. So by the fact that he was convicted of a sex offense, we know he must have touched her to turn himself on or to get her turned on and that she did not want to be touched.

Although we do not know exactly what Elie did, how do you think he could have avoided committing a crime?

Remember, when you are in a situation that might lead to sex, ask yourself, "How do I know this is what he/she wants?"

If you do that, I believe that you'll make the right decision, and keep your honor clean.

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<u>TIME</u>	<u>KEY POINT 2 – Keeping your honor clean</u>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
	<p>Small Group Discussion Leader: We saw in the video that these Marines became sex offenders. Where did they go wrong?</p> <p>A. Becoming a Marine</p> <p>First, I want a couple of you to tell us why you joined the Marine Corps. <i>(Wait for responses.)</i></p> <p>OK, good. You probably have a lot of the same reasons, right?</p> <p>Alright. And we heard some similar reasons from the Marines in the video, right? They joined to serve their countries, to better themselves, to do something honorable.</p> <p>What is important to you now about being a Marine? <i>(Wait for responses.)</i></p> <p>(If not mentioned, ask) Who here values the camaraderie that comes with being a Marine? Why? <i>(Wait for responses.)</i></p> <p>And we heard some similar things from the Marines in the video, right? They didn't join the Marine Corps to prey on people and be featured in a documentary on sexual assault. Instead, they joined for many of the same reasons you and I did.</p> <p>So how do Marines who have been to the same training as us end up committing these crimes?</p> <p>B. Predatory Behavior</p> <p>Let's talk about predatory behavior. What do you think that is? <i>(Wait for responses.)</i></p> <p>Good answers.</p> <p>Let's look at a specific example.</p> <p>Imagine one of your friends wanted to have sex with your little sister, and he told you his plan: "I'm going to wait until I see her at a party. Then I'm going to give her some drinks to get her to relax. Maybe a few more so she loses some of her normal inhibitions. Then I'm going to ask her to let me walk her to her room. Once I'm inside, I'm going to maneuver into her bed. Then, I'm going to make my move."</p> <p>How would you feel about that plan? Would you be OK with that? <i>(Wait for responses.)</i></p> <p>Do you see how predatory that is - even if the Marines in the video did not consider it so?</p> <p>What honor is there in getting someone too drunk to resist your advances?</p>	

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Do you think that's how Marines should treat each other?

(A participant might resist and say: "What if the person you're trying to have sex with wants it too?" or "Just because they're drunk, they can't consent?" or "We're all adults, right?". If that happens, respond as follows:) That's a good question. But the law says there is a point of drunkenness where people can't consent to sexual acts.

So one of the main takeaways is that as honorable Marines, you should care about what the other person wants, and act in a way to make sure you do not cross that line.

When you're in a situation that might lead to sex, ask yourself, "How do I know this is what he/she wants?"

If you do that, I believe that you'll make the right decision, and keep your honor clean.

C. Losing your honor

(NOTE: You need to cover each part - effects of criminal conviction and sex offender registration. However, depending on time, you don't need to cover all of the examples in each section. Choose the ones that you think will have the best effect on the group. For example, if a lot of the participants have kids focus on the part of sex offender registration that deals with limiting access to places kids play or go to school.)

A sex offense can have lifelong consequences for the victims, for the perpetrator, and for their families. Today, we're going to focus on the effects on the offender because other training has addressed the catastrophic, life-altering effects on victims. We'll start by talking about the effects of a sexual assault conviction.

1. Criminal Conviction

Who here knows what the maximum punishment for a rape in the Marine Corps is?
(Wait for response.)

Confinement for life, dishonorable discharge, total forfeitures of pay, reduction to E-1. But even if you don't get maxed out or you're convicted of a different sex offense under Article 120, like sexual assault or abusive sexual contact, the consequences are severe.

How much pay do you receive in a month? Is that touching or sexual intercourse worth forfeiting a year's worth of pay? Years in the brig?

Isn't it worth taking a few seconds to make sure someone wants to have sex with you if it means avoiding 5, 10, 20 years in jail, followed by a lifetime of sex offender registration?

2. Sex Offender Registration

Who here understands what sex offender registration is? *(Have someone briefly explain their understanding of sex offender registration.)*

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Do you know how long you have to remain on a registry? *(Wait for responses.)* The real answer is it depends.

Let me give an example. Take New York. New York categorizes sex offenders as low risk, moderate and high risk. Low risk offenders must register for 20 years; moderate and high risk for life. It's even harsher in Florida where all sex offenders have to register for life.

Now, let's talk about what that means in real life.

Some of the obligations of registration depending on the state:

Verify their address with law enforcement *every 90 days*.

Report in person to a local police department to have a current photograph taken every three years or *every year*.

Notify the state of any higher education institute you attend or work at.

Provide the state in writing with your Internet service providers, internet screen names, and e-mail accounts.

Have photos, physical description, addresses, vehicle descriptions, license plate numbers, and a description of their crime available for review by the public on an online database.

If you violate any of these, you could be back in jail with another felony conviction for failing your registration obligations.

Ok what about your personal life? How many of you have children or plan on having children someday? *(Wait for responses.)* What are some of things you like or would like to do with them?

(Wait for responses. If necessary, suggest the following.)

playground/park,
drop them off at school
see a school play
go to their games

Many states have requirements that prohibit sex offenders from being near places intended primarily for use by minors for education or recreation. You might not *ever* be able to see your son's/daughter's/niece's/nephew's school play or soccer or football game because of a bad decision you make today.

Can you imagine having to explain to them why you can't do those things with them?

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<u>TIME</u>	<u>IV. SUMMARY/CONCLUSION</u>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
	<p>Thanks for your outstanding participation today. Your ideas and experiences made this discussion much more interesting, and I hope you learned a lot. Based on your participation, I am confident that you now have a better understanding that sexual assault is a problem that can be solved by honorable Marines treating each other with respect, and simply caring about each other.</p> <p>As honorable Marines who take care of each other on a daily basis, I know that you want to do the right thing. So I want to leave you with some practical advice. Next time you're in a situation that might lead to sex, ask yourself, "How do I know this is what he/she wants?"</p> <p>If you do that, I believe that you'll make the right decision, and keep your honor clean.</p> <p><u>END OF DISCUSSION</u></p>	