



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
1700 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-1700

US ARMY INSPECTOR GENERAL AGENCY
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (ROI)
(Case 17-00058)

NAME / POSITION: Major General (MG) Joseph P. Harrington, Commanding General (CG), United States Army Africa, Vicenza, Italy

ALLEGATION / FINDING: The allegation that MG Harrington failed to display exemplary conduct when he engaged in inappropriate online conversations was substantiated.

BACKGROUND:

1. On 31 July 2017, the Department of the Army Inspector General Agency (DAIG) received notification from the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs (OCPA) of an allegation against MG Harrington.

2. The complainant, Mr. Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today's Pentagon Correspondent, contacted OCPA alleging that MG Harrington had an inappropriate online conversation with the spouse of an enlisted Soldier. Mr. Vanden Brook stated that he was contacted by an advocate for the Soldier's spouse who supplied him with a series of Facebook (FB) Messenger messages between the spouse and MG Harrington. He stated that "he had spoken to her and that she believed that MG Harrington sought an intimate relationship with her, and she did not." Mr. Vanden Brook further stated that she did not want to file an official complaint because she was worried that her husband would be the target of retaliation. Mr. Vanden Brook did not provide the name of the advocate, the spouse, and did not identify additional witnesses.

[Investigating Officer (IO) Note: Mr. Vanden Brook did not identify if the "she" he spoke to was the spouse or the advocate. During testimony, MG Harrington identified the spouse by name. DAIG confirmed that she is married to a (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) Soldier assigned to a United States (US) Army unit garrisoned in (b)(6);(b)(7)(C). The civilian spouse is referred to as (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) throughout the remainder of this report.]

3. On 17 August 2017, The Inspector General directed an investigation by DAIG.

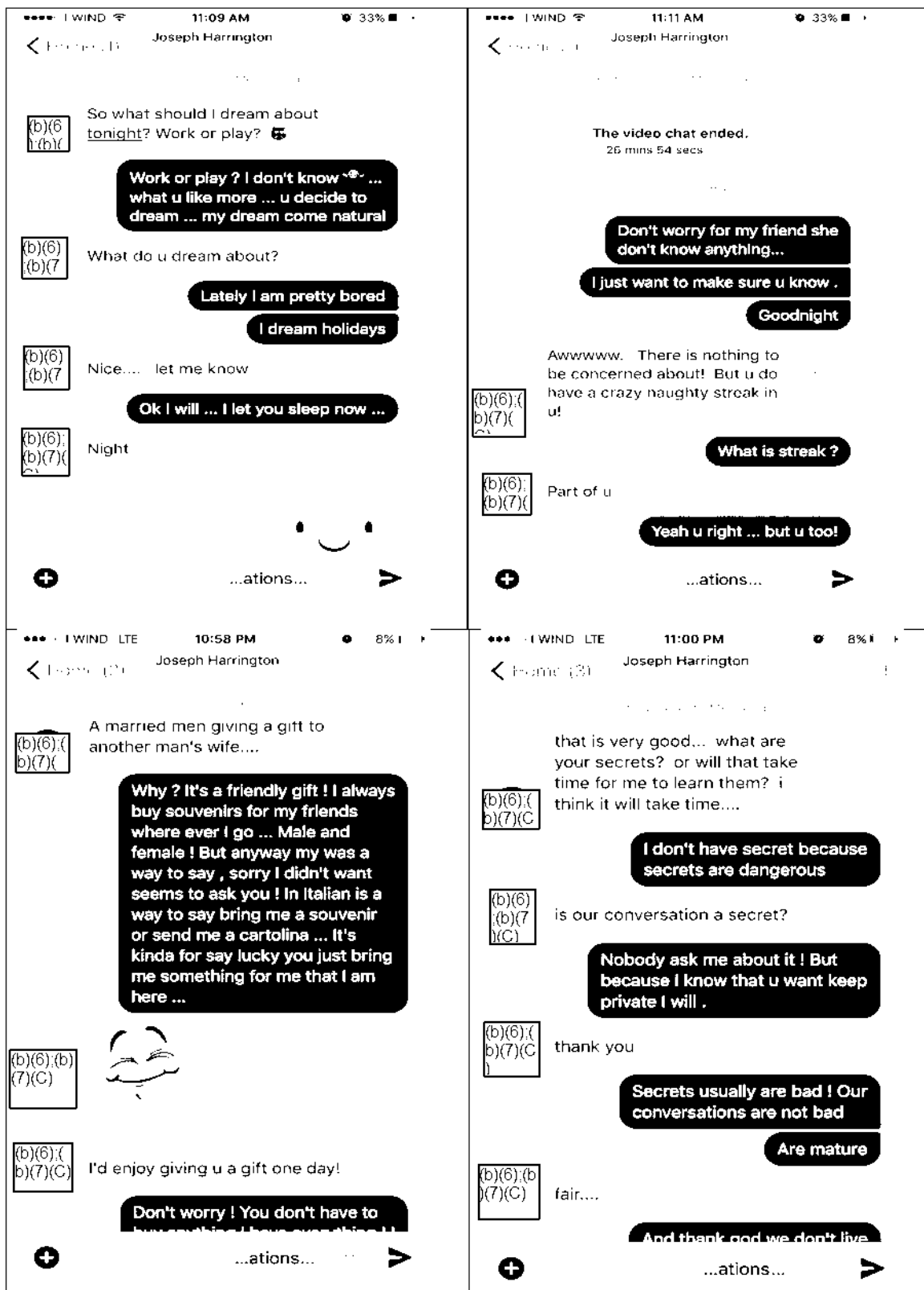
STANDARD: Army Regulation (AR) 600-20 (Army Command Policy), 6 November 2014, paragraph 1-5c(4)(d), states, as a requirement of exemplary conduct (Section 3583, Title 10, United States Code (10 USC 3583)), all commanding officers and others in authority in the Army are required to show in themselves a good example of virtue, honor, patriotism, and subordination; and guard against and suppress all dissolute and immoral practices, and to correct, according to the laws and regulations of the Army, all persons who are guilty of them.

DOCUMENTS / TESTIMONY:

1. Mr. Vanden Brook provided a 64 page document that depicted portions of FB Messenger conversations between MG Harrington and (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) that took place between 25 March 2017 and 9 May 2017. Many of the messages did not include a date or time of the conversation; however, those that were dated indicated the conversations usually took place in the evening or very early morning. In one instance, MG Harrington engaged in a video chat for over 26 minutes with (b)(6):(b)(7)(C). This video chat occurred at approximately 2200 hours on 4 May 2017.

[IO Note: Depicted below are several examples of the FB Messenger pages to describe the content of the conversation. The icon on the left and the light blue statements represent MG Harrington's comments, the darker shade of blue represents (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) comments.]





Additional excerpted statements made by MG Harrington or (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) that appear in the version of the conversation received with the initial complaint are listed below:

<p>MG H - You said I'm the first, should I worry about you? MG H - Hottie MG H - Lovely tease! MG H - What are your secrets? Or will that take time for me to learn them? MG H- I knew you were worth worshipping. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) - Thank you for worshipping me. MG H - Of course my lady. MG H - You know how to increase the temp.</p>	<p>MG H - I hope you delete this exchange! Promise!? MG H - Make up s...x is fun. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) - Kissing face emoji MG H - I'd enjoy being in a tent with you. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) - Next time you have a stomach pain you need to masturbate. I just give you a medical advice. MG H - You can be my nurse. Selfishly, I'd enjoy that.</p>
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2. On 25 August 2017, MG Harrington testified:

a. He received and reviewed the FB messages that Mr. Vanden Brook provided to OCPA and DAIG sent to him. He acknowledged that he engaged in the FB Messenger conversations in question; however, he contended that the document showed excerpts of a larger conversation and were taken out of context. He identified the other party to the conversation as (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) stating that (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) initially engaged him via a FB friend request which he did not accept because he did not recognize her. He stated that he did not accept friend requests if he did not know someone. He checked her FB pages when he received the request and noticed pictures that showed she was married to a Soldier. During testimony, MG Harrington stated that the Soldier was a member of the 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade, and therefore not his direct subordinate.

b. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) later approached MG Harrington at the Camp Ederle gym and introduced herself to him. She reminded him that she was the woman who complimented him on his amazing smile as he was entering the gym one day and that he should not have forgotten. MG Harrington stated that (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) piqued his curiosity in a FB message by telling him that she needed to relate something to him regarding his (b)(6):(b)(7)(C). He contacted her by FB video chat to discuss the issue. She told him that (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) had complimented (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) regarding (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) and wanted him to know she appreciated his kindness.

c. His FB messenger conversations with (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) were initially focused on gaining valuable information about the military community in Italy from an Italian national. Later the conversations focused on helping her with her relationship with her husband. He provided (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) with relationship advice so that she would not make the same mistakes he made in his younger days.

d. His personality and leadership style includes engaging with people constantly in person, and in this day and age, through social media. This is a means of collecting vital information about the community and providing valuable advice to others. He categorizes himself as an extreme extrovert who enjoys talking and communicating with people.

e. In response to a question regarding the appropriateness of the FB messenger comments depicted, he described them as follows: "As depicted they seem a little off. Not quite salacious but leading that direction;" however, he also said that the conversations "do not characterize the exchanges we had." He defended his use of the term "naughty" by stating that it was taken out of context, and that there was no sexual connotation to his use of the word. He used it "in the British sense" to convey that she might behave badly and fly off the handle.

f. His online conversations with (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) were done using his own personal mobile phone and/or laptop computer. MG Harrington stated that sometime in mid-May he began to have misgivings about (b)(6):(b)(7)(C). He stated that "she seemed to have a host of other issues that frankly [he] thought were based on immaturity and other problems." He felt that (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) was trying to rope him into a conversation that was not comfortable. He felt "she was too needy and desperate for attention rather than interested in [his] advice."

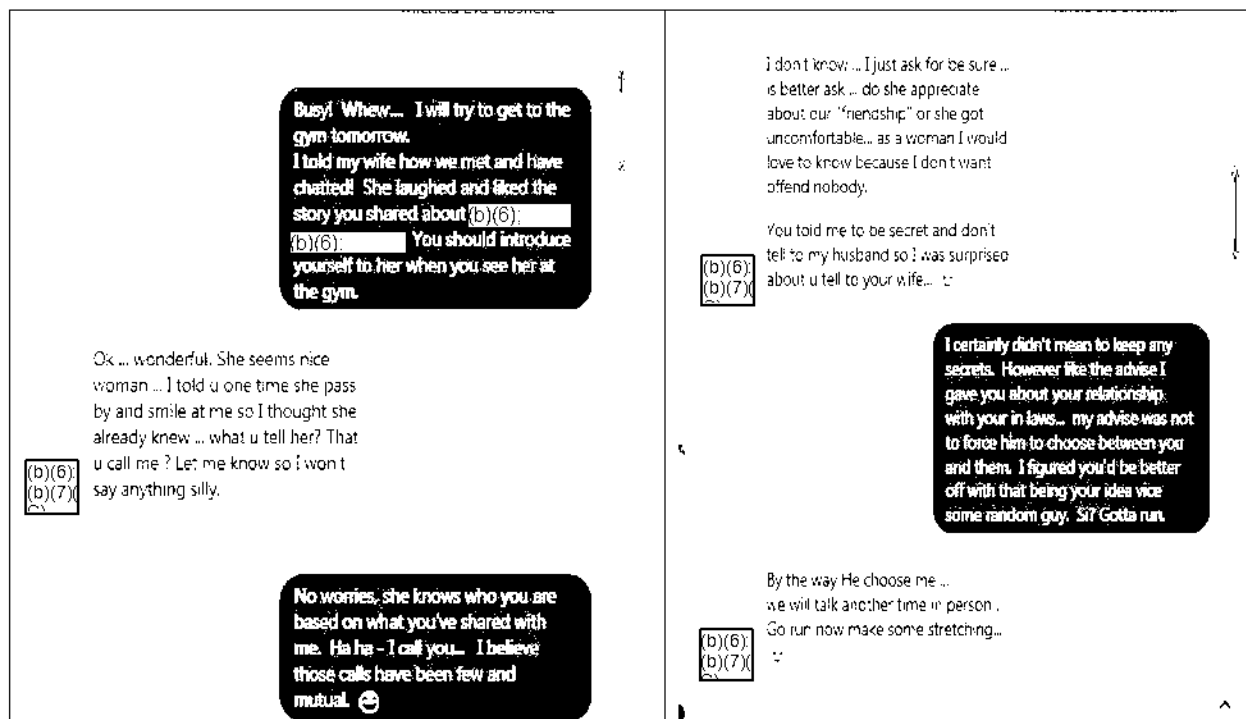
g. He became more formal in their text conversations, started saving the exchanges, and eventually stopped responding to her. He had previously deleted his FB messages and asked (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) repeatedly to delete them on her end to prevent them from being taken out of context. He stopped deleting his FB messenger conversations with her to prevent the conversations from being taken out of context if necessary. He would provide DAIG copies of the complete conversations he had saved.

3. Email from MG Harrington through his Trial Defense Services (TDS) attorney, (b)(6):(b)(7)(C), (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) 31 August 2017, subject: narrative from MG Harrington, provided follow-up information from the interview. MG Harrington provided an example of how he and his (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) assisted the spouse of another Soldier, and described how he communicated with the spouse through FB. He stated that this is one example of many that depicts "his engagements designed to help service spouses." He engages all different types of people and communicates with them on their level. He hopes someone will help a loved one of his in such a manner one day.

4. Document provided to DAIG by MG Harrington on 28 August 2017 depicted screenshots of several FB Messenger conversations between himself and (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) occurring between 15 May and 3 June 2017. The screenshots were intended to provide the complete context of the FB conversation. Examples of the screenshots are listed below:

[IO Note: (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) words are on the left in light blue, MG Harrington's are on the right in dark blue.]

<p>Typical American it's ok I was in Milan today Work all day (b)(6) (b)(7) Very happy spilled? you are silly typical american? me? perhaps but i don't think so good for you Typical American , in italia we have a say about Americans ... (b)(6) (b)(7) Americans fuck and forget ... lol and the saying is?</p>	<p>(b)(6) (b)(7) Mean they forget people easily well... that clearly does not characterize our dialogues no one forgets you (b)(6) (b)(7) I got a contract done today about my book exciting, good luck (b)(6) (b)(7) Can you talk ? nope, i am home relaxing Even before u was home relaxing but clearly the sounds of your texting was really different and you are on Facebook so I thought u could talk ... u acting strange ! Is something happen? (b)(6) (b)(7)</p>
<p>(b)(6) (b)(7) happen? how could i possibly being acting strange? you don't know me I know the way u text me late at night but I never cut u off like that ... (b)(6) (b)(7) That s why I think is strange i simply said hello and chatted when i got your messages. Yes today ! I understand... you say hello it's ok . But usually you text me often and want to chit chat , that's why i ask if u was busy... i really don't appreciate that when u want talk of write I am available and when I write u you cut me off ! What I suppose to say ? Ok sorry . No I would like a equal respect on conversations . (b)(6) (b)(7) that is not fair... often you write me</p>	<p>res today ! i understand... you say hello it's ok : But usually you text me often and want to chit chat , that's why I ask if u was busy... i really don't appreciate that when u want talk of write I am available and when I write u you cut me off ! What I suppose to say ? Ok sorry . No I would like a equal respect on conversations . (b)(6) (b)(7) that is not fair... often you write me when i am not able to chat, and when i say hey you expect a full dialogue. No ... i don't : I just would like that you kindly explain me that u busy doing something else and not answer me : - nope . I am home relaxing ! Because I feel uncomfortable . What I suppose to say ? (b)(6) (b)(7) Was never my intection to bother u , but for sure I will never answer u like this .</p>



5. Email from MG Harrington's spouse, (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) through TDS, 31 August 2017, subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Resend from (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) provided (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) statement regarding matters under investigation.

a. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) described MG Harrington as a people person who thrives on mentoring and offering counsel to many. His one and only hobby is communicating with people, describing this activity as one of the ways he relaxes.

b. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) is one of many Soldiers and spouses that MG Harrington has communicated with during his past 30 years in the Army. She learned of MG Harrington's online conversation with (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) in May 2017, when MG Harrington informed her that he was communicating with the spouse of a Soldier and that he was concerned this spouse was trying to pursue consistent communications with him and that she was trying to arrange meetings with him which were not work related. Mrs. Harrington sensed her husband felt that (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) was "a person not to be trusted."

c. MG Harrington had told her previously about an online conversation he had with (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) whose (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) was a student at the same school as their (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) had shared with MG Harrington that their son had complimented (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) believes that any mention of one's (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) would be a topic of interest and draw a parent into a conversation.

d. She saw a photo of (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) but did not recognize her. She stated that the exchange between her husband and (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) made her feel uncomfortable and speculated on (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) intentions for engaging MG Harrington in conversation.

6. On 5 September 2017, the DAIG spoke with (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) via telephone. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) stated:

a. She initially contacted MG Harrington through FB when he showed up as a suggested friend. She did know him or that he was a general. She found out later who he was, after they met in the gym and her boxing coach told her that he was a general. She is in public relations, event planning, and also organizes events on base to include a military ball. Networking is important to her business. After learning that he was a general officer, she thought she might be able to organize higher level events for him. She likes to make friends and wants more people to know her.

b. She did not believe it was wrong for a woman and a man to be friends and she believed that she and MG Harrington were friends, "kind of like confidants." (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) characterized their relationship as "chat friends who entertained each other when they were bored at night." She admitted to being flirtatious with MG Harrington and that he flirted back, but she was clear to indicate that the relationship did not include sex or nudity of any sort. She expressed remorse for her part in the relationship with MG Harrington.

c. She and MG Harrington both became too involved. She was flattered by his attention, he is a very charming man who would write messages to her at night. She stated that MG Harrington was very intelligent and that she liked intelligent people. He was always curious about her life and that it was all very psychological. MG Harrington called her [on FB] on more than one occasion, once from Africa.

d. She felt that she had been wrong to confide in MG Harrington when she and her husband had arguments and she felt angry and alone. She "left the door open for him: when I told him about the problems I had with my husband." There were issues with her husband's family. She thought that MG Harrington was trying to develop a relationship with her as more than friends.

e. After three months of conversation, MG Harrington started to act weird and distant, not talking to her online anymore. She expressed hurt feelings over this stating that she gave him her trust by telling him personal things about her family. She felt humiliated to learn that MG Harrington had told his wife about their conversations after repeatedly telling her (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) not to tell anyone about their conversations and relationship, specifically her husband. She changed her password because she felt that their conversation and what she was doing was not correct; she did not want her husband to see the conversations.



f. Her husband is now aware of the online conversation and is understandably upset. He is concerned that there may be professional repercussions for him, is upset with (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) for her actions, but also believes that the general's behavior was inappropriate.

g. She did not approach the media with this story for fear of what might happen to both MG Harrington and his family, and her and her family. She stated that she confided in a friend, whom she did not want to identify, asking whether her friend thought this sort of interaction was appropriate. She feels that her friend may have released the information to the media and felt bad for the harm it was causing both families. She also stated that she saw the USA Today article and thought it was good because it was true.

7. On 8 September 2017, DAIG obtained the entire FB Messenger conversation from (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) Facebook account. The FB messages verify that the conversations between MG Harrington and (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) began on 12 February 2017 and continued for 109 days ending on 3 June 2017. MG Harrington and (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) chatted 62 of those days with MG Harrington sending 1158 messages to (b)(6);(b)(7)(C). The full conversation includes additional language and subject matter of similar content to those previously noted. Samples of the conversation are listed below.

[IO Note: All of the FB messages are included as an exhibit. The icon on the left and the light blue statements represent MG Harrington's comments, the darker shade of blue represents (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) comments. The format of the exhibit is different from the screen captures presented in the body of this report due to formatting restrictions when saving lengthy FB conversation.]

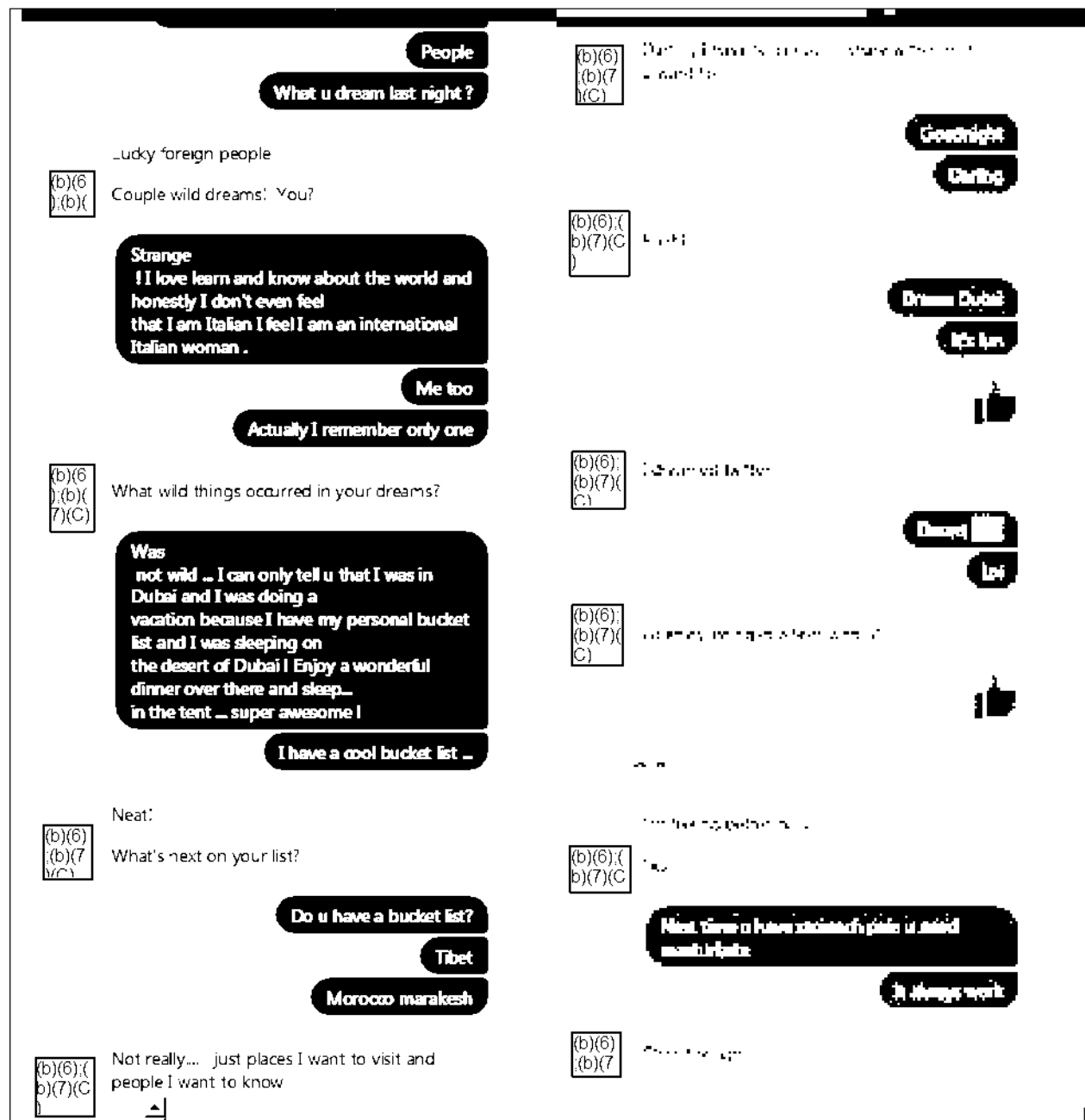
<p>(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) lovely tease:</p> <p>Keep smiling:</p> <p>(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Anything???</p> <p>I though U Went To SLEEP?</p> <p>Are U sleep in separate bed?</p> <p>Still have my eyes open</p> <p>Watching a game</p> <p>(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Same bed: Silly</p> <p>Where is your lady?</p> <p>(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Sleeping</p> <p>If I was her I bring U in bed from the [redacted] lol</p> <p>(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Where is your man?</p> <p>Italian style</p> <p>Sleeping</p> <p>NeXT To me</p> <p>(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Funny: I'd let u</p> <p>U let me?</p> <p>U dont have a choice</p> <p>He get mad at me when i acting like this</p> <p>(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) I'd like it then</p> <p>^ </p>	<p>(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Ok. What's up?</p> <p>Is (b)(6): name (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) Because (b)(6): came home today and she told me that she is like him 😊😊😊</p> <p>I don't know if is (b)(6): but a (b)(6): told to (b)(6): that (b)(6): (b)(7)(C) - can u imagine ! They are so little and they know al business -</p> <p>What's her name? I told him never say that: Argh!!! Who is her teacher?</p> <p>(b)(6):(b)(7)(C)</p> <p>Exactly!</p> <p>I was wondering! She made a show with her teacher class (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) and that day there was (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) class there too and I guess (b)(6): met him and when he talk to her some other boy in (b)(6): class told her who (b)(6): was -</p> <p>Ah!!! Well I hope she likes him: I like to think he comes from good stock. What's (b)(6): (b)(7)(C) name?</p> <p>(b)(6):(b)(7)(C)</p>
	<p>She is (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)</p> <p>Cute: I will ask (b)(6): why do u think she likes him?</p> <p>(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)</p> <p>She said that he was the only one that appreciates her dress when she acting in the show of (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) He told her that she looks like a bride ! But she say that she was dress like princess Diana ! What a (b)(6): (b)(7)(C)</p>

<p>Say to the commo team to go to sleep</p> <p>And put earplugs</p> <p>Lol</p>	<p>(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) What about the...?</p> <p>Maybe u don't know but women are way smarter than men and we always find out the password</p> <p></p>
<p>(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) I'll give u a plug: Ha ha</p> <p>Is a nice suite or a third world suite</p> <p>Plug?</p>	<p>(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) Why? that phone with...?</p>
<p>(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) Very nice: You'd enjoy it:</p> <p>Earplugs!</p> <p>Why?</p>	
<p>(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) Ear-P_LUG</p> <p>I like the view</p> <p>Lol</p>	<p>It doesn't matter</p> <p>What about we are in... and they sign in</p> <p>in the...?</p>
<p>(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) Because I'm here silly:</p> <p>Yes sir ear plug</p> <p>We could play poker</p> <p>Change the password on your fb</p>	<p>(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) the... of...?</p> <p>Prin... ph...</p> <p>Trust me I am a master on Facebook spying</p>
<p>(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) Strip?</p> <p>Just for make sure</p> <p>I just did</p>	<p>I did in the past</p> <p>With my eye</p> <p>I am a pro</p> <p></p>
<p>(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) Why change my password?</p>	<p>(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) ...?</p>

The image is a screenshot of an Instagram post. At the top, there is a black bar with the word "Instagram" in white. Below this, a user's profile picture is redacted with a black box containing the text "(b)(6);(b)(7)(C)". The user's name is also redacted with a black box containing "(b)(6);(b)(7)(C)". The post's caption reads: "NO ORDINARY WOMAN 100% Let love surrounding your life and be happy , be passion in love and brave forever ! 🥰💪 #wondermom". Below the caption, there is a large redacted area for the photo, with a black box containing "(b)(6);(b)(7)(C)". At the bottom of the post, there are icons for home, search, add, heart, and profile. The comments section shows several interactions:

- Comment 1: "(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) sorry.. simple facebook here". Reply: "You can see all the photos and no drama".
- Comment 2: "(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) send me the link. no drama?". Reply: "Yeah don't you have the same problem ? Reading the stupid stuff that people write on Fb ! 🤔🤔🤔".
- Comment 3: "(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) I don't read what I don't want to". Reply: "I have a lot people that complain or talk for start drama".
- Comment 4: "(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) just ignore... focus on good people". Reply: "Don't you see the rest of my photos ?".
- Comment 5: "(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) only saw a few". Reply: "Because I post more on Instagram".
- Comment 6: "(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) feel free to send me your favorites". Reply: "You should download".

At the bottom right of the comments, there is a thumbs-up icon.



8. On 6 September 2017, TDS provided DAIG a list of witnesses to interview, specifying the information each could provide. The witnesses included: (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) who believed (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) worked with someone in the (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) before contacting the press; (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) at the Camp Ederle Gym, who could provide background on (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) who could provide information on (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) character; and (b)(6);(b)(7)(C)

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(b)(6):(b)(7)(C) an employee with the Department of Defense (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) who could provide information on (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) character.

[IO Note: On 15 September 2017, DAIG spoke to (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) to obtain local contact information for witnesses recommended by TDS. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) provided contact information for the (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6):(b)(7)(C). The DAIG interviewed (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) and had a brief discussion with (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) regarding the allegation against MG Harrington. The DAIG did not interview (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) because they did not have any direct knowledge concerning the allegation against MG Harrington. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) had been shown portions of the messages between (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) and MG Harrington by (b)(6):(b)(7)(C). The remainder of the testimony from (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) and a summary of the conversation with (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) related to their assessment of the situation, their speculation as to (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) motivation for messaging MG Harrington, their view of (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) character, their opinions on MG Harrington's behavior, and the impact of the messages on Vicenza Military Community (VMC). The DAIG reviewed the testimonies and determined the opinions regarding (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) motivation, character, and her impact on the VMC did not provide direct evidence related to the allegation against MG Harrington. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) stated that the effects of the scandal on the community have been problematic, that the scandal has caused rifts, and has negatively impacted morale. The DAIG will address these testimonies in other matters.]

9. Memorandum provided by TDS on 9 September 2017 arguing against the suitability of ALARACT 014/2017 as a standard.

10. 15 September 2017, MG Harrington responded by email to DAIG after reviewing the full and complete version of the FB messenger conversation sent to him on 8 September 2017. MG Harrington stated via email that, "To the best of my knowledge and belief, nothing in the document provided appears to be inaccurate. However, I also cannot be absolutely certain that nothing has been added or removed since the conversation took place."

11. On 20 September 2017, DAIG interviewed (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) testified that the summary of her previous telephonic statement was true and accurate. To date there have been no negative repercussions taken against her husband. She felt that MG Harrington's actions were improper, as were her own.

a. She stated that she was not coached by (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) but that (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) advice was to break off the relationship immediately because both (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) and MG Harrington were married and it was bad for both of them. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) offered to take her to the IG if she felt any repercussions or harassment coming from this incident. (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) considered

(b)(6);(b)(7)(C) an honest and professional woman and did not want her to be involved in this for fear that her reputation might be damaged.

b. She stated that she did not feel sexually harassed by MG Harrington and did not see him as a predator, but did feel that he “worked” her for three months and maybe expected that she send him pictures of herself naked, but was too smart to ask for them. She felt used and lied to by MG Harrington and was upset when he abruptly cut off their friendship without explanation, stating that he “turned the shoulder” to her. She referred to him as a womanizer.

c. She reiterated that she never had an affair, never had sex, a sexual chat, a sexual video call, or a blatantly sexual conversation with MG Harrington. She categorized their conversations as romantic. She continues to feel harassed and bullied on social media as a result of the release and publication of this story.

12. Document provided by TDS on 3 October 2017 arguing that MG Harrington’s rights to due process had been violated when DAIG changed the standard from Online Misconduct covered under ALARACT 14/2017 to failure to exhibit exemplary conduct per AR 600-20.

ANALYSIS / DISCUSSION:

1. Mr. Tom Vanden Brook alleged that MG Harrington engaged in an inappropriate conversation with the spouse of an enlisted Soldier. AR 600-20 (Army Command Policy) states, as a requirement of exemplary conduct all commanding officers and others in authority in the Army are required to show in themselves a good example of virtue, honor, patriotism, and subordination; and guard against and suppress all dissolute and immoral practices, and to correct, according to the laws and regulations of the Army, all persons who are guilty of them.

2. The evidence established that MG Harrington had online conversations with (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) via FB Messenger which included 1158 individual messages from MG Harrington, between 12 February and 3 June 2017, and that MG Harrington knew (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) was married to an enlisted Soldier stationed in Vicenza.

3. The conversations ranging from friendly conversation to flirtatious at times, and included sexual innuendo. MG Harrington described the conversations as follows: “As depicted they seem a little off. Not quite salacious but leading that direction.” MG Harrington’s own description of the conversations demonstrated that they were inappropriate considering they were with the spouse of a subordinate Soldier. The entire online conversation also demonstrated an escalation in the personal nature of the conversations and an increase in the frequency of communications from February 2017 until May 2017 when MG Harrington’s messages changed to a more respectful and

professional tone. The messages after 18 May 2017 appeared to indicate that MG Harrington was attempting to re-focus the conversations to a less flirtatious and personal conversation.

4. MG Harrington's attempts to conceal and keep the conversation secret indicated that he knew the conversation was inappropriate, contrary to his assertion that the conversation was appropriate and above board. MG Harrington repeatedly sought to keep the conversation secret by deleting parts of the conversation and asking (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) to do the same.

5. MG Harrington claimed the original messages presented by Mr. Vanden Brook were incomplete and taken out of context to make them appear worse than they were. MG Harrington's testimony regarding the messages was misleading however, when compared to the complete conversations. For example, his explanations of several of the original messages, such as "sharing a tent," how he met (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) and the "conversation regarding (b)(6);(b)(7)(C)" were inconsistent with the full context and timeline of the conversation. This misleading behavior is inconsistent with the Army values.

6. During the course of the investigation MG Harrington's TDS attorney raised issues regarding the conduct of the investigation. First, TDS attempted to vilify (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) and secondly, she argued that MG Harrington's due process had been violated.

a. Although TDS attempted to redirect the investigation away from his own actions to focus on (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) behavior, motivation, and reputation, none of this detracted from MG Harrington's admission that he participated in the online conversations. MG Harrington's choices, words, and actions were his own. Similarly, evidence provided to demonstrate MG Harrington's gregarious leadership style, his social nature, or his character did not detract from his actions online.

b. Although TDS argued that MG Harrington's rights to due process were violated, they were not. In accordance with AR 20-1, MG Harrington was informed of all unfavorable information that the IG possessed—in this case, the entire FB messenger conversation between himself and (b)(6);(b)(7)(C)—and was afforded an opportunity to respond. MG Harrington was initially informed of the nature of the allegation against him as failing to demonstrate dignity and respect in online social media messaging with the spouse of an enlisted soldier." He was further advised that allegations may be added or modified during the conduct of the investigation. Subsequent modification of the standard on 27 September 2017 did not alter the nature of the accusation which has remained consistent throughout the investigation. Prior to interview MG Harrington was provided a list of questions to be asked and signed DA Form 3881. He was aware of the nature of the allegation against him regardless of the actual standard applied, waived his rights, and, with the assistance of a Trial Defense Services attorney, admitted to

engaging in the on line conversation with (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) that included flirtatious remarks and sexual innuendo.

7. Evidence indicated that MG Harrington's actions have resulted in negative press for the United States Army, and negatively impacted the military and civilian members of the VMC. Members of the community and installation reported that his activity has caused anger and polarization, military and civilian personnel were disappointed, and there was a degradation of trust in the Chain of Command and the Army's SHARP program.

8. The preponderance of credible evidence indicated that MG Harrington failed to exhibit exemplary conduct when he engaged in inappropriate online conversations with the spouse of an enlisted Soldier for nearly four months. MG Harrington's online statements, his choice of vocabulary, and sexual innuendo with (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) were not good examples of virtue and honor. His actions negatively impacted the command climate and readiness of the VMC, were dissolute and immoral, and not an example of the exemplary conduct expected of an Army senior leader.

CONCLUSION: The allegation that MG Harrington failed to display exemplary conduct when he engaged in inappropriate online conversations was substantiated.

OTHER MATTERS:

(b)(6):(b)(7)(C)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. This report be approved and the case closed.
2. Refer this report to the Judge Advocate General for appropriate action.
3. Refer Other Matter #1 and #2 to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Vicenza, Italy.

(b)(6):(b)(7)(C)

Investigator

APPROVED:

QUANTOCK.DAVID
.EARL (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)

Digitally signed by
QUANTOCK.DAVID.EARL (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD, ou=PKI,
ou=USA,
cn=QUANTOCK.DAVID.EARL (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)
Date: 2017.10.10 15:24:21 -04'00'

DAVID E. QUANTOCK
Lieutenant General, USA
The Inspector General

LIST OF EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT ITEM

A Authority/Complaint

- A-1: Complaint
- A-2: Directive
- A-3: Legal Review

**B Standard: Army Regulation (AR) 600-20 (Army Command Policy),
6 November 2014**

C Documents

- C-1: Document, Complainant provided Facebook messenger conversation (25MAR-3JUN17)
- C-2: Document, Subject provided Facebook messenger conversation (15MAY-3JUN17)
- C-3: Email, 31 August 2017, subject: Narrative from MG Harrington
- C-4: Email, 31 August 2017, subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Resend from (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)
- C-5: MFR, conversation with (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)
- C-6: Document, Witness provided Facebook messenger conversation (20FEB-3JUN17)
- C-7: Email, 15 September 2017, subject: RE: PRIORITY: Official Matter S:111700ASEP17 (UNCLASSIFIED)
- C-8: Excel Chat Log Chart
- C-9: Document, Character Reference from (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) 5SEP17.
- C-10: Document, Character Reference from (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)
- C-11: Document, Memorandum, Trial Defense Service, (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) 9 September 2017
- C-12: DA 3881, MG Harrington
- C-13: Email, 27 September 2017, subject: Official Matter
- C-14: Document, Memorandum, Trial Defense Service, (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) (b)(6):(b)(7)(C) 3 October 2017

D Testimony

- D-1: MG Harrington
- D-2: (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)
- D-3: (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)
- D-4: (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)
- D-5: (b)(6):(b)(7)(C)

SAIG-IN (17-00058)

E

Notifications

- E-1: (b)(6);(b)(7)(C)
- E-2:
- E-3:
- E-4: MG Joseph P. Harrington (subject)