

United States Air Force

News Release

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STATEMENT BY 31ST FIGHTER WING COMMANDER

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The following statement can be attributed to Brig. Gen. Scott J. Zobrist, 31st Fighter Wing commander:

“The Air Force and the 31st Fighter Wing are dedicated to a culture where sexual assault is simply unacceptable and will not be tolerated. This culture begins in the Air Force accessioning programs with awareness training, and it continues throughout every Airman's career. In fact, every member of the 31st Fighter Wing recently completed the Air Force's latest sexual assault prevention campaign known as bystander intervention training. This training highlights the moral obligation and professional duty of every Airman to intervene appropriately with the goal of preventing an assault from occurring.

“A safe working and living environment is absolutely essential for every member of Team Aviano. We are a close-knit community, and for us to operate effectively, our Airmen, civilian employees and family members must be confident in their own security and the safety of their loved ones. Sexual assault threatens the very fabric of our community.

“I take any allegation of criminal conduct by someone under my command very seriously - regardless of the rank of the accuser or that of the alleged offender. In the military justice system -- just like in its civilian counterpart -- any person accused of a crime is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The military justice system is dedicated to pursuing the truth. Regardless of the result in this case, I am confident that it will be a fair and just outcome.”

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Questions regarding this case should be directed to the 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs office at DSN: 314-632-7555, commercial line 0434-30-7555 or erick.saks@aviano.af.mil.