

Speaker gives unique sexual assault training

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

Laughter filled the Base Chapel as Marines and sailors experienced a unique sexual assault prevention training April 30.

Mike Domitrz, executive director of The Date Safe Project, gave a presentation called "Can I Kiss You?" twice last week Friday, as an interactive form of sexual assault prevention training for service members.

Recruiting volunteers from the audience, Domitrz, of Milwaukee, discussed various issues related to sex and dating. The author of "May I Kiss You?: A Candid Look at Dating, Communication, Respect and Sexual Assault Awareness," Domitrz has been speaking for about 20 years. The topic of sexual assault is very personal to him because his own sister was assaulted.

"Mr. Domitrz was great to work with and is clearly passionate about his approach to open communication regarding sex and intimacy," said Brenda Huntsinger, program manager, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, of Estherville, Iowa. "It is refreshing to see a preventative, respect-based program that provides actual skills that Marines and sailors can begin applying in their own relationships."

Domitrz wanted service members to understand the three different aspects of sex and sexual assault.

First, he stressed the importance of asking a partner for consent before engaging in any intimate behavior, even if it's a simple kiss. He recommended asking significant others and spouses for consent, not just those dating for the first time.

Second, Domitrz recommended to the audience they intervene in situations they witness at parties and bars, which may result in sexual assaults.

Third, Domitrz discussed with the audience how to approach a sexual assault survivor



Lance Cpl. Nick England, dynamic component mechanic, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, volunteers to role play as a female on a date during a presentation by Mike Domitrz. Domitrz, of Milwaukee, is the founder and executive director of The Date Safe Project.

or to simply offer reassurance to a loved one. Instead of the typical "If anyone hurts you, I'll kill them," approach, Domitrz suggested to the audience to simply tell their friend or relative that they'll "be there for them."

Through serious topics, he found ways for his audience to laugh and learn. To keep the audience engaged, he frequently asked for a loud reply of "oh yeah," or "yes, I do." Domitrz also shared lighthearted jokes and reactions from past audiences.

"We use a fun and interactive approach to show men and women what they can do instead

of what not to do," Domitrz said.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer Morgan, aviation electrician's mate, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, said Domitrz's presentation was "a lot better" than her previous sexual assault training sessions. She liked the role playing scenarios and found them amusing.

One aspect of the training Morgan liked was the recommendation to ask her partner what he wanted to do intimately before anything else.

"I think my husband will like that," Morgan, a native of Hardy, Ark., said.

After Domitrz spoke, Huntsinger announced the different resources available to service members aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, also briefly pointing out the uniform victim advocates attending the presentation.

"Being able to interact with Marines and sailors in a way that opened up their mind to [different approaches to] situations often seen in society was the best aspect of the presentation," said Staff Sgt. Jared Stiles, calibration chief, Combat Logistics Battalion 3. "It's opening a dialogue between myself and service members [in approaching] the topic of sexual assault [from a different angle]."

Stiles, of Coal Gate, Okla., a uniformed victim advocate for his unit, attended the presentation.

"Domitrz gives them health[er] options in pursuing relationships through mutual respect [amongst the individuals]," Stiles said. "It helps us create actionable skills rather than just awareness."

Lance Cpl. Nick England, dynamic component mechanic, MALS-24, volunteered to play the female role in a dating scenario. Sitting in a chair next to England, Domitrz, playing the male role, smiled and asked him politely if he could kiss him, eliciting laughter from the audience.

England said the presentation was "insightful and fun." England, of Bayville, N.J., said he learned to communicate more with his significant other.

"It was great to hear Marines and sailors leaving the presentation saying that it was the best sexual assault prevention training that they have had in the military," Huntsinger said.

For more information about Domitrz, visit <http://www.datesafeproject.org>.

"It is my goal to continue to have opportunities like this available to the units and community of MCB Hawaii," Huntsinger said.

For more information, call the MCB Hawaii Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office at 257-7777.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Meagan E. Klein | Patrol Squadron Four Seven

Cmdr. George M. Landis III, commanding officer of Patrol Squadron 47, watches as his wife pin the command pin to his uniform during a change-of-command ceremony.

VP-47 changes command

Press Release
Patrol Squadron Four Seven

KADENA AIR FORCE BASE, Japan — Cmdr. George M. Landis III relieved Cmdr. Stephen D. Barnett as commanding officer of Patrol Squadron Four Seven in a change of command ceremony here May 1.

Landis, a native of Edgewater, Fla., enlisted in the United States Navy in 1982.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where he later earned a Masters of Aeronautical Science.

He received a commission after graduating from Officer Candidate School in 1993 and was designated a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) following training at the Naval Air Training Unit, Randolph Air Force Base, San

Antonio, Texas.

He has served aboard four operational squadrons as well as the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and USS John F. Kennedy.

He also served at Headquarters, U.S. Central Command Staff /J-3/7 Directorates.

Throughout his aviation career, he has amassed more than 4,500 flight hours in four types of Naval and Air Force aircraft.

Landis has earned a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Navy Commendation Medals, a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Navy Good Conduct Medals and various other personal and unit awards.

Patrol Squadron Four Seven is based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and is currently deployed to Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa, Japan.

Late night rendezvous



Sgt. Mark Fayloga | 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

Members of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's advanced party wait to load buses at the Annex Parking Lot Wednesday night. The Marines were taken to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to be flown to Afghanistan to begin America's Battalion's deployment.

PTA, from A-1

Platoon. "Being a Hawaii Marine means limited places you can do live fire ranges."

Due to lack of regular repetition, his squad has to put out 100 percent effort every time they train, he said.

"We take this training as serious as we can to accomplish as much as we can in a short amount of time," Zavadil said. "Some Marines may take this training for granted but we consider it an opportunity."

Ranges that allow working with other squads and infantry MOSs [Military Occupational Specialties] are important too, Zavadil said.

"If we're tasked out to other platoons this is how you learn," he said. "You have to know how the 11s [MOS 0311 riflemen] work, as well, and learn to work together. Everyone gets to know each other more both tactically and personally. This range provides more building blocks to achieve that."

That's the thing that the machine gunner squad improved on the most,

Zirnheld said.

"I think we did really well on learning how people operate, how they move and their habits," he said. "Not only that, it was really motivating and we had a good time out here."

This squad, along with the rest of 2/3, have until May 14 to take advantage of training opportunities like this. Next, the battalion looks forward to participating in RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific exercise), the largest multinational maritime exercise in the world.