

SHIP OR STATION

**COMMANDING OFFICER, NROTC UNIT, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE**  
**SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE - UNOFFICIAL INTERNET POSTS**  
**ALMAR 008/17**

1. This ALMAR cancels and replaces MARADMIN 365/10.
2. This ALMAR provides guidance for personnel who, in their personal capacity, desire to make unofficial posts on the internet regarding Marine Corps-related topics. This ALMAR also provides guidance for Marines concerning unofficial online activity that has an adverse effect on good order and discipline within, or brings discredit upon, the armed forces. DODD 5400.11 provides guidance to Marines and Sailors regarding official posts on Navy and Marine Corps-related issues.
3. Our Marines are often in the best position to share the Marine Corps story. Marines are encouraged to responsibly engage in unofficial internet posting about the Marine Corps and Marine Corps related topics consistent with their professional expertise, personal experiences, or personal knowledge. Additionally, Marines are encouraged to professionally and respectfully correct errors and misrepresentations made about the Marine Corps.
4. In addition to ensuring Marine Corps content is accurate and appropriate, Marines must also be careful when posting Marine Corps-related content on social networking sites, blogs, or on other websites since the lines between Marines personal and professional lives often blur in the online space. Marines represent the Marine Corps at all times, and their speech and conduct must consistently embody our core values and commitment to each other, our Corps, and our Nation. Marines should therefore always use their best judgment and avoid inappropriate behavior.
5. Marines must never engage in commentary or publish content on social networking platforms or through other forms of communication that harm good order and discipline or that bring discredit upon themselves, their unit, or the Marine Corps. In other words, Marines should think twice before engaging in questionable online activities, and must avoid actions online that threaten the morale, operational readiness and security, or public standing of their units, or that compromise our core values. Such commentary and content includes that which is defamatory, threatening, harassing, or which discriminates based on a person's race, color, sex, gender, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or other protected criteria. This type of conduct may be punishable under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Existing orders and the UCMJ have long prohibited sexual or other harassment, fraternization, retaliation, reprisal, and hazing. Marines are reminded that their conduct, even off-duty or online, may violate Navy and Marine Corps orders and regulations. Finally, Article 134 prohibits a variety of offensive conduct, including indecent language, indecent conduct, and communicating a threat, and may also prohibit other neglects or disorders that are prejudicial to good order and discipline or Service-discrediting.
6. In addition to Articles 92 and 134, other articles of the UCMJ punish conduct which constitutes disrespect or insubordination towards our civilian or military leadership (Articles 88 - 91), cruelty and maltreatment of Marines of lesser rank (Article 93), sexual misconduct related to indecent viewing, visual recording, or broadcasting (Article 120c), or conduct unbecoming an officer (Article 133). Finally, inappropriate online conduct may also violate other state or Federal laws, and may expose Service members to civil liability.
7. Marines who believe they have been subject to inappropriate online conduct and who would like to maintain their privacy are encouraged to report the misconduct to their chaplain or a Victims Legal Counsel. Other resources include the Chain of Command, NCIS, Local Law Enforcement, Inspector General, Equal Opportunity Advisors, Victim Witness Assistant Coordinators, Victim Advocates, Behavioral Health Counselors, and Military OneSource. Additionally, the Marine Corps DISTRESS Line 1-877-476-7734 provides anonymous phone and chat referral service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Marines who have witnessed prohibited conduct should report the misconduct to their Chain of Command.
8. For detailed information and guidance regarding appropriate and safe online behavior, Marines and leaders of all levels should visit <http://www.marines.mil/News/Social-Media/> and review the materials under "Social Media Guidelines." Semper Fidelis, General Robert B. Neller, U.S. Marine Corps, Commandant of the Marine Corps.//

\_\_\_\_\_: Counseled this date on ALMAR 008/17 SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE - UNOFFICIAL INTERNET POSTS. I acknowledge that I have read and understand ALMAR 008/17 SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE - UNOFFICIAL INTERNET POSTS. Additionally, I acknowledge and understand that my online presence/persona is an extension of my uniformed presence. I must never contribute to any online effort to discredit the Marines and Navy, adversely affect good order and discipline, weaken the Marines and Navy teams, or violate operational security. I also acknowledge my duty to report or correct such instances when I see them.

Signature of Individual

Date

NAME (Last, First, Middle)	SSN (LAST FOUR)	BRANCH AND CLASS
	XXX-XX-	USMC