



A message from the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO, to the Australian Army following the announcement of Defence investigations into allegations of unacceptable behaviour by Army members.

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Brisbane's Enoggera army barracks rocked by online scandal

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SOLDIERS have been caught posting vile rape memes on social media in direct defiance of the push by Defence bosses to shed the misogynistic image of the armed forces.

The Army is looking into possible breaches of Defence policy after an investigation by *The Sunday Mail* into the social media activities of personnel at Brisbane's Enoggera Barracks exposed a litany of offensive images and comments from several men identifying online as soldiers.

It is believed the men were based at the Brisbane barracks at the time of these public postings, which contain references to sexual assault and racism, and include some which date back as far as 2013.

"Where individuals are identified as current serving members, they may be subject to administrative or disciplinary action under the Defence Force Discipline Act," a Defence spokesman said.

One meme, posted in April by a Brisbane-based soldier, shows a bodybuilder with the words: "I go to the gym a lot, it makes getting girls a lot easier. The last one I raped didn't stand a chance."

The self-confessed "racist" calls another user a "smelly filthy packie c---", telling them "why don't you f--- off back to your country on the door you came floating on".



One of

the Facebook posts.

Other slurs include “stinky Muslim f---wit ... retarded monkey” and “curry guts”.

“Indians aren’t my cup of tea I don’t want my house smelling like spices and dog sh--,” he wrote in February.

Another soldier, who wears his uniform in his profile photo, posted a meme in 2013 with an image of *Home & Away*’s Alf Stewart and the words: “It’s called Australia Day. I will rape the f--- out of u if u call it anything else.”

The reputation of the military also takes a hit when one uniformed soldier shares a photo of his feet up saying he gets paid to do nothing all day.



Facebook posts by Australian soldiers

The Defence spokesman said: "Army does not condone offensive or inappropriate behaviour and such conduct does not represent the ethos of the majority of Army's members.

"All members are aware of their obligations and the expected standards of behaviour. All members are required to adhere to the Army's values of courage, initiative, respect and teamwork.

"The overwhelming majority of members are proud of their service to our nation and their role in our Army."



Another meme posted on social media by soldiers.

The social media policy of the Australian Defence Force outlines that personnel should consider carefully if they should identify as a Defence member, once identified they will be perceived as representing the organisation.

The ADF has been working hard to change its image and is in collaboration with the Australian Human Rights Commission on cultural reform.

A series of sex scandals dating back to 2011 sparked then Chief of Army Lieutenant General David Morrison to take a stand against the “boys club” culture in the Army.

He famously made a video ordering his troops to accept women as equals or “get out”.

One defiant soldier, who posted images of Bill Cosby holding a Quaalude bottle and lobbing a pill into a cocktail drink, boasted that his Facebook account had been deactivated before.

Defence does not believe that troops should be banned from revealing they are soldiers on social media.

“Social media is a mechanism through which Army members can remain connected to family, friends and their communities,” the spokesman said.



Defence has been alerted to racist and sexist memes posted on social media by soldiers. The Sunday Mail does not suggest any soldiers pictured are responsible for the posts.

“This is particularly important for those, who through the course of their duties, may be required to live and work away from their home location or place of origin.

“All members of the Army receive mandatory annual training on the appropriate use of social media.”

Women make up 15 per cent of the fulltime ADF complement. The Defence Annual Report 2014-15 shows that 236 sexual misconduct incidents were reported in 2014-15.

Just under two thirds of those related to sexual offences and close to one third were sexual harassment incidents. The remaining 5 per cent of reports were pornography offences.

Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins said the commission was working with Defence to identify areas where the forces were lagging, including the use of social media.

“No ADF member should experience sexual harassment, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, victimisation or bullying,” Ms Jenkins said.

Source: <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/brisbanes-enoggera-army-barracks-rocked-by-online-scandal/news-story/6cb42fb95b9133e4d68d425724f2ae7d>