

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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JAN 10 2014

Mr. Philippe Dauman
CEO Viacom
1515 Broadway, 52nd Floor
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Ms. DeDe Lea
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs
1515 Broadway
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Mr. Doug Herzog
President Entertainment Group
2600 Colorado Avenue, 4th floor
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Ms. Michele Ganeless
President of Comedy Central
345 Hudson Street
New York, NY 10014

Dear Sir or Madam:

On January 14, 2015, your network aired the Season 5 premiere of *Workaholics*. While the episode's storyline about military recruiters may have intended to present a humorous and self-deprecating look at service rivalries, the portrayal of military members lining up to take part in a pornographic film, participating in a vile hazing incident which included both an illegal criminal act of sexual assault and the involvement of a dog, was reprehensible. Sexual assault is a crime. It's not humorous and it's not funny. Sexual assault and the behaviors that enable it -- such as ostracizing, hazing and harassing, aren't just unacceptable -- they are crimes under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Sexual assault is a breach of our Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty that each member of the U.S. Coast Guard promises to live by. With leadership and support from the President and Congress, the Coast Guard has made great strides to prevent, respond and hold others accountable for sexual assault crimes.

Your target audience is made up of the same women and men who wear our Nation's flag on their military uniforms and willingly give their lives to protect our First Amendment rights. And, while you have the right to air these episodes, you also undermine the good your network does by using its platform to educate and expose your audience to critical thinking.

As a leading voice and entertainment destination for young women and men across America, Comedy Central has a role to play in changing culture for the better. Unfortunately, in this instance,

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Subj: SERIES 5 PREMIERE OF "WORKAHOLICS"


you chose to reinforce negative stereotypes and misperceptions that not only desensitize the crime of sexual assault, but also degrade the victims of these heinous crimes.

On VIACOMs website, <http://viacommunity.com>, one of the primary tenets espoused by the company is "Pioneering Social Change." Comedy Central, as a VIACOM company, should reflect this same value. Your audience – among them, millions who serve in America's Armed Forces, deserve better.


Respectfully,



RADM Marshall B. Lytle
Chairman,
Sexual Assault Prevention Council
U.S. Coast Guard



RADM Steven D. Poulin
Judge Advocate General
U.S. Coast Guard



RDML Peter W. Gautier
Director, Governmental and Public Affairs
U.S. Coast Guard