

**Subject:** UF fraternity interim suspended during investigation of misconduct charge

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**Broadcast-quality statement from retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. David Kratzer, vice president for student affairs at UF, is available at <https://db.tt/0zrEOAYH>**

GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- The University of Florida today placed the Zeta Beta Tau chapter on interim suspension and charged the organization with a series of offenses as part of its formal investigation into allegations of disturbing illegal behavior toward veterans while at an event in Panama City last weekend.

The chapter is charged with causing physical or other harm, obscene behavior, public intoxication, theft and damage to property. An interim suspension means the organization is suspended from all activities. There will be a complete investigation by the university.

"I am personally offended and disappointed by the behavior that has been described to me," said Student Affairs Vice President Dave Kratzer, also a retired U.S. Army major general and combat veteran. "This is not representative of our students or of the university."

Panama City police responded to the incident and no charges were filed. UF policies establish standards of conduct for individuals and organizations, and officials are addressing the situation through appropriate channels. The fraternity is currently on probation at UF for hazing during the fall semester, and as a result faces stiffer penalties if found to be in violation.

Federal laws prohibit the university from discussing anything about the conduct process for individuals.

The University of Florida takes pride in serving the veteran community in many ways and will continue to do so, using this opportunity as a teaching moment.

The Collegiate Veterans Society, a UF student organization, has reached out to the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity to propose a restorative justice meeting, and the Collegiate Veterans Success Center on campus hosted discussions with veterans to talk through the situation. Kratzer also will contact local veterans groups, and a team from UF and ZBT will offer to attend each group's meetings to hear concerns.

UF President Kent Fuchs, UF's dean of students and UF's director of sorority and fraternity affairs have reached out to apologize to Warrior Beach Retreat founder Linda Cope and the individual veterans who reported the incident. The president's letter is included as part of this release.

The ZBT chapter and the national organization also have apologized. The national office has placed the organization on interim suspension awaiting the conclusion of a full investigation.

“In the days and weeks ahead, I assure you that the University of Florida will address this immediate situation as well as reinforce the long term commitment to community service and respect for others that have always been hallmarks of the University of Florida community,” Kratzer said.

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*The University of Florida is one of the nation’s largest public universities. A member of the Association of American Universities, UF posted research expenditures totaling \$696 million in 2013. Through its research and other activities, UF contributes more than \$8.76 billion a year to Florida’s economy and has a total employment impact of more than 100,000 jobs statewide. Find us at [www.ufl.edu](http://www.ufl.edu), on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/UniversityofFlorida](http://www.youtube.com/UniversityofFlorida), and learn about UF’s plan to become one of the nation’s top public research universities at [ufpreeminence.org](http://ufpreeminence.org).*