

I, Gunnery Sergeant Richard J. Potter make the following statement freely. I feel this statement is necessary being that I was the one that saw most of what happened as well as the one that had very little to drink the night of the Marine Corps Birthday ball were this alleged incident occurred. I have taken an excerpt from my original statement:

“ After the ceremony a number of people from the office went to Raoul's, a bar in Overland Park and another bar next door to Raoul's for drinks and dancing. Cpl Dejarnette, Sgt Gregory and his date, Laura Ogletree, Tina Vinson, Capt Ramirez and his wife, Maj Rowe and I went to Raoul's. MSgt Hounshell and his wife came for a couple of minutes. Maj Rowe's wife did not go to Raoul's and stayed at the hotel. The military members were in uniform while at the bars.

Maj Rowe and I went back and forth that night between the two bars. There was a lot of dancing that night. I observed Maj Rowe dancing with both Laura Ogletree and Tina Vinson. I saw Maj Rowe rubbing his hands on top of Laura Ogletree and Tina Vinson's breasts and stomachs. Maj Rowe would walk away from Laura Ogletree and Tina Vinson but they kept approaching him. It appeared to me that Laura Ogletree and Tina Vinson were okay with Maj Rowe touching them. Maj Rowe does a lot of talking and flirting.

Maj Rowe paid the bill for the drinks but it was only \$37 since so many people were buying the Marines rounds. We stayed at the bar until 0100-0130. Some people took a cab back to the hotel and Maj Rowe, Tina Vinson, Cpl Dejarnette and I took a second cab back to the hotel.

I saw my role that night as the “babysitter” to take care of my Marines that night. I had been drinking but not that much. I was aware of what was going on.

Maj Rowe went back to the hotel room and was pretty intoxicated. Cpl Dejarnette and Tina Vinson were also in the hotel room. Cpl Dejarnette was intoxicated. Tina Vinson was not that drunk but was probably too drunk to drive. I stayed in room until after Maj Rowe left. Maj Rowe was laying on the bed while Tina Vinson sat on the edge of the bed. Maj Rowe took his hands and rubbed Tina Vinson's stomach and touched her breasts. Tina Vinson pulled away from Maj Rowe and moved to the end of the bed. Shortly after that Maj Rowe got a telephone call from his wife and left the room.

I spoke with Tina Vinson on the first day back to work after the Marine Corps Birthday Ball and she did not want to file a complaint against Maj Rowe.”

That is the end of the excerpt from my original statement. I would like to add that were I did not agree with what was happening while Maj Rowe and Laura were dancing is that it appeared to be consensual touching due to Laura's hands being on top of Maj Rowe's hands, not pulling them away but moving along with as to be ok with it.

Given the opportunity I would again serve with Maj Rowe. I am fully aware that Maj Rowe's time in the Marine Corps, due to this alleged incident, is ending. I would

graciously recommend/request that Maj Rowe be granted/permitted the opportunity to retire from this fine organization that we all love and cherish as Marines.



R. J. POTTER

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