



How to keep safe on

Snapchat

Snapchat can be a fun way of keeping in touch with family and friends, as well as showcasing what you're up to right now. As with any social media tool, these benefits come with some risks that you need to be mindful of as a member of the New Zealand Defence Force.

To ensure that your use of Snapchat doesn't pose a risk to you, your family, your mates and your employer, we've got six easy to remember principles to keep in mind when you're online.

Social media companies update their privacy and security settings fairly regularly. Updated 'How to keep safe guides' can be found in the DPA Toolbox on the Defence Public Affairs Intranet.

If you have any further questions or any feedback, please email socialmedia@nzdf.mil.nz

NZDF's six safety tips for Snapchat

1. Online is for all time

Even deleted content or expiring content on services like Snapchat can live on in cyberspace. Don't post anything today that you wouldn't want to have to talk about with your CO tomorrow (or in ten years' time), and keep in mind that a poorly thought out post, like or share today might have implications for the security clearance you need for your next dream posting.

Any post or comment should be thought of as public. Even if it's set to expire, once it's on someone else's screen, you have no control over it.

2. Choose your followers wisely

It's fairly obvious, but don't allow people to follow you when you don't know them. Accepting them as a follower will allow them to see your content.

Unfortunately you also need to be careful when accepting people you know as followers. People have been known to set up fake accounts using real people's identities in order to make contact with their friends or family. If this happens to you, let your friend or family member know and report the fake account to Snapchat.

3. Block strangers who try to contact you

If you receive repeated attempts at contact from people you don't know, it's best to simply block them.

To block a user:

- Make sure you're on the user profile page
- Tap 'My friends'
- Tap a friend that you wish to block
- Tap 'Settings' at the top right hand corner
- Tap 'Block' and select a reason for blocking the person

4. Protect your location

It's best to not share your specific location, address and vehicle licence plates. While it can be tempting to add a snap with a geo-filter of your neighbourhood to a public story, it's safer to use filters that don't reveal your location.

To turn off location sharing:

- Go to 'Settings' > tap 'Snapchat' > tap 'Location'
- Switch it from 'While Using the App' to 'Never'

Tip: Try using the 'pen' option and censor out car licence plates if you really need to send out a snap that includes this information.

5. Update your password regularly

It's important to have a strong password and to update your password regularly.

Creating the right password will help keep others out. Make sure your password is unique, but memorable enough that you don't forget it. Don't use a password that you use on other sites – if one gets hacked and your password is stolen, hackers will often try it on other sites. You could have a set password but create variations. Don't share your password with anyone.

6. Add two-factor authentication

Adding a two-factor authentication can be a good way to make sure no one, other than yourself, can access your account. Adding two-factor authentication means that if you access your Snapchat account from a new phone or computer, you'll be asked to enter a login approval code (which is sent to your cellphone). If someone other than you is trying to access your account, they won't be able to log in.

To set up a two-factor authentication:

- Tap 'Settings' at the top right corner of the screen
- Select 'Login verification'
- Click the green 'Continue' button
- Select 'SMS'
- Open the text message from Snapchat and type in the six-digit code into Snapchat
- Tap 'Continue'

Some useful links

- Snapchat's privacy policy.
www.snap.com/en-US/privacy/privacy-policy
- Snapchat's 'Community Guidelines'.
<https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/a/guidelines>