MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS COMMAND SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE POLICY STATEMENT

As the Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command, it is my responsibility to provide oversight of the Command's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program. First and foremost, sexual assault is a crime. I will not tolerate sexual assault, nor will I tolerate those who do. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault goes against everything we stand for as Marines and is in direct opposition to our Institutional values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. I expect all members of the Command to become familiar with Marine Corps Order 1752.5B. Specifically, I want all of us to be familiar with identifying, reporting, preventing, and responding to sexual assault. Ignoring sexual assault creates lasting damage to the victim, the unit, and the entire Marine Corps.

Victims of sexual assault have the option of making a Restricted or Unrestricted report. Restricted reporting allows a victim to receive advocacy services, medical care, counseling, and legal advice without involving law enforcement or the Chain of Command. Victims can make a Restricted report by going to Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates (SAPR VAs), Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) and health service providers. These professionals are available 24 hours a day and are trained to assist victims in dealing with the Command, law enforcement, and medical personnel. Unrestricted reports made to members of the Command or law enforcement will initiate formal investigations.

Victim safety and confidentiality are paramount. All victims are entitled to be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect, regardless of their reporting choice. To do otherwise is inexcusable. Commanders will ensure victims receive appropriate legal advice as well as medical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual care without prejudice or reprisal.

All Commanders and Senior Enlisted Leaders will establish a command climate that makes every Marine, Sailor, Civilian Marine, and host nation employee feel like a valued member of the organization, and where being treated with dignity and respect is the norm and never the exception. This command climate will be one where leaders of all ranks are mentored and taught the requisite leadership, interpersonal, and confidence skills to detect the signs of sexual assault. This command climate will be such that victims of these crimes will not think twice about reporting them for fear of being ignored, ostracized or re-victimized by those who are their most important source of support - members of their own unit and their leaders.

My intent is clear: Every member of Marine Corps Installations Command must understand that it is our duty to safely intervene by identifying and stopping behaviors that could lead to sexual assault. Being a passive bystander is NOT an option and will not be tolerated. We will all take decisive action to prevent these crimes from occurring. To do otherwise is a complete contradiction to our established values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

Semper Fidelis,

C. L. HUDSON
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Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command