27 SEPT 2012

COMMANDING OFFICER HEADQUARTERS & SUPPORT (H&S) BATTALION
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR) POLICY LETTER

Ref: (A) General Amos' White Letter 2-12 on SEXUAL ASSAULT dated 3 May 2012
(B) MCO 1752.5A: SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR) PROGRAM
(C) BGen Coglianese's SARP Policy Letter Dated 21 February 2012

1. People are truly the most valuable and precious asset that the United States Marine Corps has in our inventory. Thus, make no mistake that sexual assault is a **crime** that is not restricted to any gender, race, religion, rank, age, MOS, etcetera. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force or abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent. The three references contain guidance for identifying, reporting, addressing, and most importantly ***stopping*** sexual assault.

2. ***Sexual assault will absolutely not be tolerated***. Failure to report or ignoring sexual assault incidents may have damaging consequences for victims and their organizations/units. Where cause exists, appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against violators and those that actively or passively condoned the assault.

3. All victims shall be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect - -they will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim is released only to those who have a need to know (i.e., the unit commander, PMO, or NCIS). The victim's safety is paramount at all times. Victims who choose to make a restricted report in accordance with reference (b) will have that choice honored to the fullest extent. Victims who do make an unrestricted report must feel confident that their personal safety will be protected; victims will not be re-victimized by any perpetrator and any person(s) aware or condoning the assault. Marines and Sailors who are sexually assaulted are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized. They deserve to be treated with sensitivity and care.

4. Alcohol use is a contributing factor in sexual assault incidents. Illegal & Irresponsible consumption of alcohol places a Marine at increased risk. It is imperative that all members of this command strive to take care of each other and not allow another to be victimized due to intoxication. ***THE GOLDEN RULE IS ALWAYS IN FULL EFFECT!***

5. Leaders & Supervisors at all levels will take immediate action to become familiar with the contents of the references. Commanders will ensure that ***all*** members of their command are briefed on the contents of the references; all active duty Marines shall receive Annual Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Refresher training. Marine Corps Community Services (Marine and Family Programs), as well as the Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and/or Uniform Victim Advocate (UVA), will assist this command in fulfilling SAPR training responsibilities as well as providing assistance to victims.

6. The ***COMMANDER RESPONSE PROTOCOLS FOR ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT*** is the established Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) within the Headquarters and Support Battalion for responding to allegations of sexual assault. This information is readily available at the following link < **http://usmc-mccs.org/sapro/resources.cfm?sid=ml&smid=5** >.

7. Sexual assault is a complete and total contradiction to the Core Values we all embrace as well as the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America that we promised to defend. Eliminating sexual assault will take a dedicated community effort. I challenge & need everyone to accept responsibility for achieving this goal. Everyone aboard this base as well as the people of America deserve nothing less than our complete dedication to this cause.

8. Filing instructions. A copy of this policy shall be prominently displayed on command information boards and incorporated into unit directives, orders, and force preservation briefs.

Semper Fidelis and may GOD continue to Bless the United States of America!

Michael E Cordero

Colonel Michael E. Cordero, USMC