



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
U. S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
1752
G-1
29 NOV 2012

POLICY LETTER 3-12

From: Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force
To: Distribution List

Subj: SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Ref: (a) MCO 1752.5A

1. Situation. Sexual assault is a crime that is not restricted to any gender, race, or age. 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 reference is the Marine Corps Order containing guidance for identifying, reporting, and addressing the issue of sexual assault.

2. Mission

a. Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Failure to report or ignoring sexual assault incidents may have damaging consequences for victims and their organizations. Where cause exists, appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against violators.

b. Alcohol use is frequently cited in sexual assault incidents. Irresponsible consumption of alcohol places a Marine at increased risk. It is imperative that Marines take care of each other and not allow a fellow Marine to be victimized due to intoxication.

3. Execution

a. The Commander's Protocol for Responding to Allegations of Sexual Assault, found at Appendix D of the reference is established as the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) within the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) for responding to allegations of sexual assault.

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b. Commander's Intent

(1) Everyone in I MEF is entitled to dignity and respect as an individual, but must abide by common standards established by proper authority.

(2) All of us must avoid lying, cheating, or stealing.

(3) All should contribute 100 percent of their abilities to the unit's mission. Any less by an individual passes the buck.

(4) All I MEF units, regardless of size, are a disciplined family structure, with similar relationships based on mutual respect. We must never fail to come to the aid of others in times of need.

(5) It is essential that issues and problems which tend to lessen a unit's effectiveness be addressed and resolved.

(6) A blending of separate cultures, varying educational levels, and different social backgrounds is possible in an unselfish atmosphere.

(7) Being the best requires common effort, hard work, and teamwork. Nothing worthwhile comes easy!

(8) We all deserve job satisfaction, equal consideration, and recognition of our accomplishments.

(9) Knowing those you work with enables you to learn to look at things through their eyes, as well as your own.

(10) Issues detracting from the efficiency and sense of well-being of an individual should be surfaced and weighed against the impact on the unit as a whole.

(11) It must be recognized that a brotherhood depends on all members belonging-being accepted by others within.

(12) Leaders at all levels will take immediate action to become familiar with the contents of the reference. Commanders will ensure that all members of their command are briefed on the contents of the reference and receive annual refresher training. Marine Corps Community Services (Marine and Family Programs), as well as the Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and/or Uniform Victim

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Advocate (UVA), will be utilized to assist the command in fulfilling SAPR training responsibilities as well as providing assistance to victims.

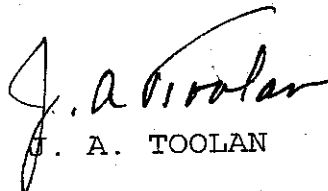
(13) Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim is released only to those who have a need to know (i.e. the unit commander, PMO, or NCIS). Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims who choose to make a restricted report in accordance with the reference will have that choice honored to the fullest extent. Victims who have the courage to report must feel confident that their personal safety will be protected and that they will not be re-victimized by the organization. Marines and Sailors who are sexually assaulted are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized. They deserve to be treated with sensitivity and care.

4. Administration and Logistics. The point of contact regarding this policy letter is the I MEF Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at (760) 468-7472.

5. Command and Signal

a. Command. Sexual assault is a complete and total contradiction to the core values we all embrace. Eliminating sexual assault will take a dedicated community effort. I challenge each leader and individual to accept responsibility for achieving this goal. Our Marines, sailors and family members deserve nothing less than our complete dedication to this cause.

b. Signal. A copy of this policy shall be prominently displayed on command information boards and incorporated into unit directives and orders.


J. A. TOOLAN

Distribution: I, II