

# COMMANDING OFFICER'S SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

**"Sexual Assault completely contradicts the  
core values that we hold sacred."**



Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, forcible sodomy, and other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful (to include unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts.

In lock-step with the Marine Corps, H&S BN holds a firm stance against sexual assault. It is a violent crime that will not be tolerated amongst our ranks. All incidents are thoroughly investigated to ensure victims of sexual assault receive the care and support they need while the offenders are held accountable.

The victims of sexual assault are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized and wounded forever and are left with scars that may never heal. Victims will be treated with discretion, sensitivity, decency and respect. Whether restricted or unrestricted, victims receive the treatment and support they deserve. Sexual assault victims who have the courage to report must feel confident in knowing their personal safety will be guarded and they will not be re-victimized during treatment and investigative actions. Whether a report is delayed or immediate leaders care for the victims as they would their brothers or sisters.

If you see something, do something. Marines and Sailors of this Battalion have a bias for action and attack problems. You are responsible for your shipmates and personnel, as well as buddy accountability must be standard behavior. Alcohol use is nearly always close by in sexual assault incidents. Know your limits and never put yourself at risk. Take care of each other; don't allow an intoxicated service member to be victimized. Practicing bystander intervention is not ruining someone's fun but possibly saving their career or life.

Leaders at all levels will take immediate action to become familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5C. Section OICs and SNCOICs will ensure all personnel are briefed on the contents of the reference and receive annual refresher training from the command's Victim Advocates (VA's) or Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). To alleviate the barriers normally associated with victims of sexual assault (fear, embarrassment, shame) victims may notify one of our VAs, with the promise of confidentiality.

Sexual Assault undermines any sense of team and contradicts the core values that we hold sacred and eliminating such criminal behavior from our ranks will take a dedicated effort. I expect all members of the battalion to embrace and enforce this policy.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JLH", written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Hammond

Col USMC