



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE FORCE  
II MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
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5000  
S-1  
21 MAY 2013

Chemical Biological Incident Response Force Policy Letter #3-13

From: Commanding Officer

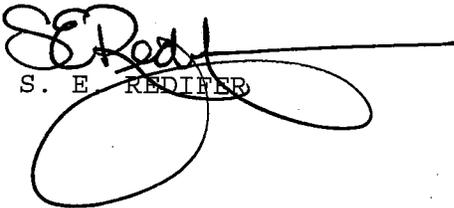
To: All Sections

Subj: SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY LETTER

Ref: (a) MCO 1752.5B

Encl: (1) Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Sexual Assault

1. Purpose. Enclosure (1) is the Commanding Officer's policy on Sexual Assault.
2. Action. All personnel assigned to CBIRF will review this policy letter and become familiar within its contents. Enclosure (1) will be prominently displayed on troop information boards throughout the battalion.
3. The point of contact regarding this matter is the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 301-744-1059.

  
S. E. REDIFER

# Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is criminal behavior that has no place in the Marine Corps, the Navy, or this unit – it is a shameful act that violates the trust that is fundamental to the military service as well as our ability to accomplish our mission. It is an attack on a brother or sister service member as well as the proud history of our Marine Corps and Navy; it is a slap in the face to those warriors who have made the ultimate sacrifice to carve out our Services' place in history – sexual assault is a problem that simply must be eliminated from our ranks. ***My bottom line: Sexual assault will not be tolerated in CBIRF – reports of sexual assault will be investigated promptly and vigorously, victims' rights will be protected, and perpetrators of this terrible crime will be held accountable.***



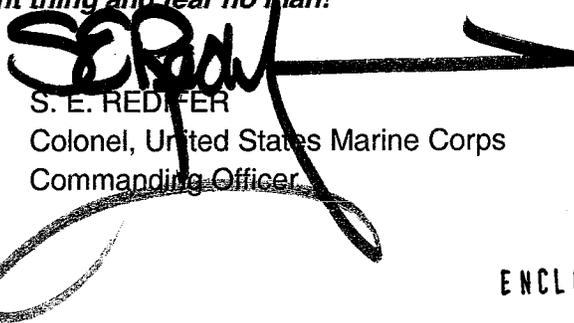
Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, physical threat, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. *Let there be no mistake, if you engage in sexual activity with someone, they must consent AND have the ability to consent – an individual who is drunk, unconscious, or otherwise incapacitated cannot give their consent.*

We must first and foremost strive to eliminate sexual assault through a dedicated campaign of prevention; if prevention should fail, we will actively investigate, hold offenders accountable, and treat victims with compassion and dignity. Victims of sexual assault are often physically, mentally, and emotionally wounded; they will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect, and we will ensure a victim receives appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. A victim's privacy is paramount and care must be taken to ensure that the identity of a victim of sexual assault is protected. Victims who report sexual assault must feel confident that their personal safety and privacy will be closely guarded, and that they will not be subject to the re-victimization of public ridicule or harassment. Upon receipt of a report of sexual assault, leaders will conduct an immediate assessment to ensure that the victim is physically safe and is afforded prompt medical attention. Ensuring that all available resources are utilized to meet the victim's long-term emotional, mental, and spiritual needs is also critical. Victims of sexual assault who choose to make a restricted report are to have that choice honored to the fullest extent.

Winning the battle against sexual assault will be achieved through dedicated, proactive leadership at every level. We must educate our Marines and Sailors and spare no effort in ensuring that we create an environment where all personnel are treated with dignity and respect and are given the opportunity to achieve their goals. A climate that fosters an attitude in which sexual harassment, sexual assault, or sexual discrimination is somehow tolerable is unacceptable to me; I expect all leaders to take immediate corrective action to change any attitude or condition that could enable this crime to happen among our ranks. We are charged with protecting our nation's sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters, and we will do so to the fullest of our capacity. We will create a climate in which our Marines and Sailors are empowered to protect themselves, watch over one another, and are confident that they can trust their chain of command to listen, respond, investigate, and take action.

Sexual assault damages victims for life and undermines the reputation of our Services – I am asking for your help to act appropriately, intervene when necessary, protect one another, and always ensure the integrity of our core values.

*"Do the right thing and fear no man!"*

  
S. E. REDIFER  
Colonel, United States Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer

ENCLOSURE (1)