



## COMMANDING OFFICER, MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

### STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault continues to be the most under reported violent crime in our society. It is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat of force or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault is a crime not restricted to any gender, race, or age. Marine Corps Order 1752.5A contains guidance for identifying, reporting, and managing the issue of sexual assault.

Sexual assault committed by Marines, Sailors, or civilians living or working aboard Marine Corps Base (MCB) Hawaii will not be tolerated and all incidents should be immediately reported. Sexual assault committed aboard MCB Hawaii or committed by Marines, Sailors, or civilians assigned to MCB Hawaii will be thoroughly investigated and we will ensure victims of sexual assault receive the care and support they need and the offenders held accountable.

Sexual assault victims are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized and wounded and will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect. Victims will receive the treatment and support they require and deserve without having to make an official report. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim is protected unless otherwise indicated. Sexual assault victims who have the courage to report must feel confident their personal safety will be guarded and they will not be re-victimized during treatment and investigative actions.



Bystander intervention should be practiced and encouraged by all commands to prevent potential situations from escalating into sexual assault. Buddy accountability needs to become a standard behavior keeping fellow Marines/Sailors from committing sexual assault or becoming victims. Alcohol use is frequently cited in sexual assault incidents and irresponsible alcohol consumption can place a Marine at risk for sexual assault. It is imperative Marines and Sailors take care of each other and not 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 1752.5A. Commanders will ensure all members of their command are briefed on the contents of the reference and receive annual refresher training from the command's Uniformed Victim Advocates. To alleviate the barriers normally associated with victims of sexual assault (fear, embarrassment, shame), victims may notify the MCB Hawaii Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) Victim Advocates, their unit's or any UVA, counselors, or Health Care Provider with the promise of confidentiality. MCCS, Marine & Family Services Victim Advocates can provide assistance to victims of sexual assault.

Sexual assault is a total contradiction to the core values that we hold sacred. Eliminating sexual assault at MCB Hawaii takes a continuously dedicated effort. I challenge each leader and individual Marine, Sailor, and civilian Marine to accept responsibility for achieving this goal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D. Rice".

R. D. RICE  
COLONEL, U. S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING OFFICER, MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII