**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**
MARINE CORPS DETACHMENT
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
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22 Jul 10

DETACHMENT POLICY LETTER 5-10

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault is a crime. Accordingly, I will neither tolerate a Detachment member committing a sexual assault, nor will I tolerate someone who looks the other way and does not report an incident. All alleged incidents will be investigated and action taken against perpetrators and against those who fail to report. In addition to the illegality of this act, sexual assault is the preying upon of one by another and is in direct conflict with our core values. It is dishonorable; it is not courageous and it signifies the breaking of the commitment we have to each other.

Sexual assault, as defined by MCO 1752.5A, the Marine Corps order on the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, is 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. It is not restricted to any gender, age or spousal relationship.

Leaders will be in the forefront of our effort to eliminate incidents of sexual assault in this Detachment, through education and supervision of their Marines. Commanders will ensure that all hands, to include student Marines, receive training on sexual assault prevention and response and are briefed on MCO 1752.5A. Commanders will also discourage the irresponsible use of alcohol, frequently cited in sexual assault incidents, and will ensure compliance with the buddy program. Let us not leave a Marine behind on this particular battlefield.

If you have been sexually assaulted, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and the Uniformed Victim Advocates stand ready to assist. Victims have the option of filing a restricted report in which all details are kept confidential or an unrestricted report in which the command is notified and allowed to render assistance. Victims will be treated with sensitivity and respect, and their safety will be paramount.

Watch out for each other, hold each other accountable and do not tolerate a sexual assault perpetrator in our midst.

N. A. SPRINGER