Commanding Officer's
Policy Statement on Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is a criminal act that is incompatible with our Core Values of honor, courage, and commitment. Acts of sexual assault will not be tolerated. All military and civilian personnel aboard this Installation are to take prompt and appropriate action to ensure they or others are not involved in any way with sexual assault.

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. Sexual assault is not restricted to any gender, race, or age. Marine Corps Order 1752.5A provides specific guidance and instructions for identifying, reporting, and addressing the issue of sexual assault.

Our most valuable asset is the individual Marine. Each Marine is important and deserves the best leadership and support possible. Ignoring or failing to report sexual assault incidents is detrimental to victims and to this Installation.

All leaders are to take immediate action to become familiar with the contents of Marine Corps Order 1752.5A. Commanders are to ensure that all members of their command are informed about the Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Albany Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program and to conduct annual refresher training.

Victims of sexual assault are often physically, mentally, and emotionally wounded; they are to be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect. All commands are to ensure a victim receives appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. A victim's privacy is also paramount, and care must be taken to ensure that the identity of a victim of sexual assault is released only to those with a need to know. Victims who report sexual assault must feel confident that their personal safety and privacy will be protected and that they will not be subject to the revictimization of public ridicule or harassment. Upon receipt of a report of sexual assault, commanders are to 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.

The Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)/Program Manager, Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), Marine Corps Community Services (Marine & Family Services), and the Command Chaplain stand ready to provide an array of support services to victims of sexual assault. Commanders are to be aggressive in utilizing these resources to assist victims, manage current cases, and enhance training.

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault, please notify your UVA or the Installation SARC.

Eliminating incidences of sexual assault takes a dedicated community effort. I challenge each individual to accept responsibility for achieving this Goal. Our Marines, Sailors, Civilian Marines, and family members deserve nothing less.

TERRY V. WILLIAMS
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, MCLB Albany