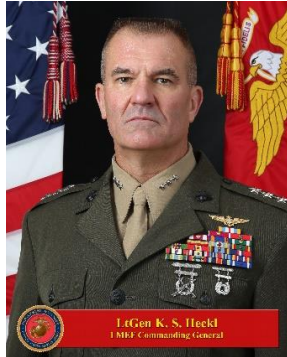


COMMANDING GENERAL I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Sexual Assault Prevention Policy



Who thinks sexual assault is in keeping with our core values?

Stupid Question right? Which is why I find it utterly amazing that a policy letter on this subject is even needed! Other policy letters I can understand, but sexual assault is a serious crime and totally inconsistent with our Core Values and ethos, accordingly violators will be held appropriately accountable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and other administrative processes

Sexual assault is a crime that is not unique to any gender, race, or age. 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 an anathema and fundamentally detrimental to good order and discipline and our warrior ethos. Failure to report or ignoring sexual assault incidents is simply unacceptable and again breaks with the tenets of who we are. We all have an obligation to first and foremost prevent sexual assault and when appropriate, report it. Likewise, allegations of sexual assault must be thoroughly investigated to ensure the rights of all parties involved, accused and victim, are upheld and will instill confidence in the investigative and military justice process.

Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim is released only to those who have a need-to-know, the unit commander, PMO, or NCIS. Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims who choose to make a Restricted Report will have that choice honored to the fullest extent. Victims who have the courage to report must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and they will not be re-victimized by the organization. Marines and Sailors who have been sexually assaulted are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized and MUST be treated with sensitivity and care. Their wellbeing and safety is the paramount concern.

Alcohol consumption is frequently involved in sexual assault incidents. Just like drinking and driving, irresponsible consumption of alcohol can place a Marine at increased risk. We are Marines and Marines take care of each other! Look out for one another and do not allow a fellow Marine to be victimized due to intoxication. This one is usually easy to see coming.

Sexual assault is a complete and total contradiction to who we are as Marines and it simply will not be tolerated in this command. If you see a situation developing that causes you concern or encounter an actual assault in progress – INTERVENE! If you fail to act, you are complicit. I will conclude with a promise to every member of this command, if you are sexually assaulted, your privacy, your safety and holding the appropriate individual(s) accountable will be my number one priority. As your commander, I am committed to the safety, dignity, and the wellbeing of all Marines, Sailors, civilian employees and our family members who are a part of the I MEF team. We must work to rid our Corps of sexual assault, and we will support those victims of this serious crime in every way possible. It starts at the small unit level, and extends all the way to me.

Contact the DoD Safe Helpline: (877) 995-5247 or the I Marine Expeditionary Force SARC at (760) 763-3881 for further assistance.

Semper Fidelis ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Heckl', written over a printed name tag.

**Lieutenant General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
I Marine Expeditionary Force**