



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII
BOX 63002 KANEHOE BAY HAWAII 96863-3002

IN REPLY REFER TO:
3000
O&T
11 Sep 2015

POLICY LETTER 12-15

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii
To: Distribution List

Subj: PARTICIPATION IN MIXED MARTIAL ARTS ACTIVITIES

Ref: (a) MCRP 3-02B, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program

1. Purpose. Provide guidance and policy for Marine Corps Base (MCB) Hawaii Marines and Sailors participating in Mixed Martial Arts activities.

2. Cancellation. Policy Letter 2-06.

3. Information

a. Background. In 2000, the Commandant of the Marine Corps established the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP), in accordance with the reference. MCMAP is consistent with our warrior ethos and is a commitment to our credo of "every Marine a rifleman". Since its inception MCMAP has become a vehicle for enhanced unit cohesion, increased self-confidence, and refinement of skills necessary on the battlefield. MCMAP has also encouraged Marines to personally seek additional training in the martial arts, ground fighting, and other forms of self-defense.

b. Situation. Along with participation in MCMAP, Marines now actively train for and participate in what is commonly referred to as Ultimate Fighting or Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) competitions. The popularity of this sport continues to grow, particularly in Hawaii, and the number of Marines and Sailors desiring to participate is likely to increase. Much like MCMAP, MMA has the potential to enhance skills that will assist our warriors on the battlefield. Risk in any sport, physical or combat training is an inherent part of what we do. However, participation in MMA greatly increases risk of injury or worse, particularly in organized competitions where the ultimate goal is submission or knock-out.

c. Policy. Participation in MMA activities is not prohibited, however leaders need to manage and mitigate risk for the Marines and Sailors taking part. MCB Hawaii commanders and leaders will conduct an operational risk management analysis prior to allowing Marines and Sailors to participate in MMA competitions or other similar activities. As part of this analysis, commanders shall evaluate the skill, fitness, and training of the individuals desiring to participate in MMA. The MCB Hawaii Safety Directorate stands ready to assist with unit or individual ORM analysis.

4. Scope. Compliance with this policy will minimize risk and ensure the highest degree of safety for Marines and Sailors engaging in these activities.


S. C. KILLEEN

DISTRIBUTION: A