



COMMANDING OFFICER, MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

**"WARRIORS USE POWER FOR GOOD, NOT TO COMMIT CRIMES.
SEXUAL ASSAULT IS A CRIME."**

Sexual assault continues to be one of the most under reported violent crimes in our society. It is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault is a violent crime that can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, race, or age.

Sexual assault committed by Marines, Sailors, or civilians living or working aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) will not be tolerated and knowledge of all incidents shall be reported immediately, unless such knowledge is covered by applicable law or regulation. Failure to report a sexual assault is detrimental to the command as well as the victim.

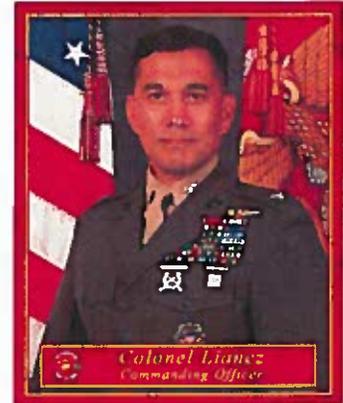
Sexual assault victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect. Victims shall receive the treatment and support they require and deserve. Care will be given to ensure that the identity of a victim is released only to those who need to know. Sexual assault victims who have the courage to report must feel confident that their personal safety will be guarded and that they will not be re-victimized during treatment and investigative actions.

Unrestricted reports of sexual assault committed by Marines, Sailors, or civilians assigned to MCBH will be thoroughly investigated and perpetrators will be held accountable. As outlined in MCO 1752.5B, victims who desire restricted reporting can make a confidential report to a Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA), a civilian Sexual Assault Victim Advocate, a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), a mental health counselor or healthcare provider, Victim's Legal Counsel (VLC) or the chaplain.

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 and Sailors from committing sexual assault or becoming victims. It is imperative Marines and Sailors take care of each other and not allow service members to be victimized.

Leaders at all levels will take immediate action to become familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5B. Commanders will ensure all members of their command are briefed on the contents of this Order and receive pre-deployment and annual refresher training from the command's UVA or SARC.

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



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

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