Sexual assault is a criminal act that destroys unit cohesion, degrades warfighting readiness, and incompatible with our core values. I will not tolerate sexual assault in 11th Marine Regiment.

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent including rape, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, forcible sodomy (forced oral or anal sex), or attempts to commit these offenses.

All Marines and Sailors will understand what constitutes sexual assault and reporting procedures for restricted and unrestricted reports. Marines and Sailors who are victims of sexual assault will be treated with dignity and respect and without reprisal. Victims who choose to make a restricted report in accordance with Marine Corps Order 1752.5C will have that choice respected to the fullest. Whether a restricted or unrestricted report is filed, Marines and Sailors who have the courage to report this criminal behavior must feel confident in their personal safety and that they will not be revictimized.

Commanders will assign and at least two victim advocates to maintain 24 hour support, referral services, and training for the unit. All hands must understand the contents of this policy statement and the procedures regarding the sexual assault prevention and response program.

I expect all hands to take deliberate action to prevent sexual assault in 11th Marines. Bystander intervention is a critical tool that can prevent one of our own from becoming a victim, or a perpetrator of, sexual assault. All of this is simply Marines and Sailors taking care of each other when faced with a threat. We take care of each other in combat, in the field, in garrison, and while on leave and liberty. Our readiness depends on it.

SEMPER FIDELIS.

D.J. SKUCE
COMMANDING OFFICER