COMMANDING OFFICER'S

2D ASSAULT AMPHIBIAN BN

STATEMENT ON

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault is a crime. The men and women of character that live and work in this battalion will not tolerate it, have the duty to report it when it occurs, and we will prosecute it to the full extent of the UCMJ. It is a crime not restricted to any gender, race, rank, or age – that breaks unit trust and tears down the cohesion that is so essential to our "First Wave" family. Sexual Assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat of force or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. 'Consent' is not given when a person uses the threat of force, the use of force, coercion or when a person is incapacitated or unconscious.

I expect all Marines and Sailors within this command to educate themselves on the indicators of this crime – as well as the rules and procedures for handling and reporting when it is suspected. As members of the "First Wave" family – we all share an equal responsibility and duty to protect our fellow Marines and Sailors. Leaders will ensure each member under their charge is aware of and understands the Marine Corps Order MCO 1752.58, "Sexual Assault Prevention and Response." Victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect. It is important that we all understand the resources and expertise available to help victims – while also understanding and adhering to confidentiality and proper reporting procedures. Whether an unrestricted report (identity of victim released to only those who need to know) or a restricted report (victim confidentiality report), all victims will receive the proper care and help they need. Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs), Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVAs), Chaplains, and Medical personnel will ensure immediate support is provided to all victims.

We all share responsibility for the welfare and safety of the "First Wave" family – know the indicators, and step-up to prevent conditions and situations that could result in sexual assault. To report a Sexual Assault or to speak with a Victim Advocate, call the 24/7 Response Line, MCB, Camp Lejeune: (910) 750-5852 or DoD Safe Help line: (877) 995-5247. Our UVAs are Capt Sudhoff (910-440-7374) or 1stLt Akbarut (910-440-7179).

Semper Fidelis

"Gator 6"

D. W. BAAS