



Commander's Equal Opportunity Policy Statement



Arguably the most important contributor to the historical success of the Marine Corps is trust. Trust is the foundation of our esprit de corps and manifests itself in two ways. The first is the trust we have in each other - that the Marine or Sailor to our left and right is fully willing and able to stay the course, do what is right for the right reasons, and accomplish the assigned mission. Equally important is the trust we have in the institution - that those Marines in our chain of command, up to and including the Commandant, will do their duty in a manner worthy of the respective office and will treat each individual with the respect, dignity, and fairness he or she deserves - without regard to race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, or sexual orientation.

Trust is the first casualty of discrimination and harassment to include sexual harassment.

Those who violate our Core Values by participating in or advocating discriminatory behavior are attacking our unit cohesion and eroding our ability to accomplish our mission. **This type of behavior will not be tolerated.**

Equal opportunity is a leadership issue and is the responsibility of every member of this command. Anyone who believes he or she has been discriminated against, harassed, or witnesses such behavior has the responsibility of informing the chain of command, the 1/3 Equal Opportunity Representative, or to utilize the informal resolution process. Any person found guilty of improper conduct, or those failing to report such incidents will be held fully accountable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

I cannot overstate the importance of treating each other with respect, dignity, compassion, and fairness. It defines us as a disciplined fighting force, separates us from our enemies, and is what our Corps and Nation expect.

J. SALAME