The third imperative of “What Matters to Us” is Respect and Concern for all. Sexual assault is an affront to this imperative and destroys the very fabric of what makes us a Corps of Marines.

Sexual assault is also a complete contradiction to our core values of honor, courage and commitment. Eliminating sexual assault takes a combined effort which we will attack of three fronts. I challenge each leader, Marine, Sailor, and civilian Marine to accept responsibility for achieving this goal.

First, all leaders must foster a command climate where sexual assault is abhorrent; where Marines and Sailors are empowered to take action to prevent sexual assault from occurring and to respond properly in the event a sexual assault does occur. All leaders are responsible for the execution of their role in the Marine Corps Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program and the Uniform Code of Military Justice and must ensure all members of their command receive the necessary training on the Marine Corps policy, reporting options, and limits to confidentiality.

Second, all Marines, Sailors, and civilian Marines have an obligation to act when knowledge of a sexual assault is gained. We all must understand our mandatory reporting roles and that failure to properly report a sexual assault has damaging consequences for both the victim and the command. Together we can eliminate sexual assaults from occurring within our ranks. We own this.

Finally, if you are a victim of sexual assault, the Marines, MARFORK, and your command supports you. Assistance is available through your unit Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), chaplain, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), and the DOD Safe Helpline at 877-0995-5247. You will be treated with the sensitivity, dignity and respect you deserve.

Semper Fidelis,

BRADLEY S. JAMES
Major General, United States Marine Corps
Commander
United States Marine Corps Forces, Korea