

## Commandant of the Marine Corps Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Policy Statement

People are the most important resource in the Marine Corps. "Taking care of Marines" includes holding Marines to high professional standards of performance, conduct, and discipline. As an institution, we must operate with the highest levels of moral and ethical behavior. Our interactions with each other should always reflect our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. We expect all Marines and Sailors to treat one another with dignity, care, and concern.

Our force is strengthened by the diversity of our Marines and Sailors, allowing us to leverage an array of talents in ways that contribute to mission success. One of the ways we will continue to triumph in every battlespace is by ensuring our Marines and Sailors are well-led and cared for physically, emotionally, and spiritually – both in and out of combat.



We will ensure no Marine or Sailor is denied equal opportunity because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. We will take swift and appropriate corrective action when individuals are found to have engaged in discrimination, abuse (hazing, bullying, ostracism, and retaliation), harassment (including sexual harassment), wrongful distribution or broadcasting of an intimate image, or dissident and protest activity (including supremacist activity). The prohibition of these activities and conduct extends to actions committed by the use of social media or other electronic means. Discrimination, abuse, or harassment will not be tolerated in our Corps.

There are several avenues to report or initiate a complaint, dependent upon the circumstances surrounding the situation and the personnel involved. Marines and Sailors who believe they have been subjected to discrimination, abuse, or harassment are encouraged to report the behavior to the chain of command within 60 days of the incident. All Marines and Sailors are protected from retaliation when engaged in the Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) complaint process. All personnel will have access to support services.

I require all Marines and Sailors to follow my lead by ensuring we create a culture of dignity and respect because our Corps deserves and demands nothing less. The time for action is now.

For more information regarding the MEO program please go to: MCO 5354.1E CH1.

Semper Fidelis,  


David H. Berger  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps