



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL HOSPITAL
1 PINCKNEY BOULEVARD
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29902-6148

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1752
00CO
3 May 2012

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital Beaufort

Subj: COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

1. Sexual assault is a criminal act incompatible with Department of Navy (DON) core values, and will not be tolerated at Naval Hospital Beaufort (NHB).
2. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault is a violent crime that can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, race, or age.
3. Victims of sexual assault are often physically, mentally, and emotionally wounded. They will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect, and will be provided appropriate medical, emotional, and psychological support.
4. Privacy and safety are also paramount. Victims of sexual assault who choose to make a restricted report are to have that choice honored to the fullest extent. When a victim opts to make an unrestricted report, care will be taken to ensure that the identity of the victim is released only to those with a need to know.
5. Retaliation against anyone who brings forward a complaint of sexual assault is strictly prohibited. Anyone responsible for retaliation, whether or not that person is the accused or someone affiliated with the accused, will be subject to disciplinary action.
6. Bystander intervention is imperative and should be practiced to prevent potential situations from escalating into sexual assault. Bystander intervention keeps fellow Sailors, Marines and civilians from committing or becoming victims of sexual assault. This degree of accountability needs to become a standard behavior among all NHB staff members.
7. Sexual assault continues to be the most under reported violent crime in our society, and the effects are detrimental.

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Eliminating sexual assault will take a dedicated team effort. I challenge and expect each individual to accept responsibility for achieving this goal.


J. R. QUEEN

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