



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
15TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT
UNIT 42530
FPO AP 96610-2530

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SJA
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POLICY LETTER 5-10

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: POLICY ON PROSTITUTION AND THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. § 934 (Uniform Code of Military Justice)
(b) National Security Presidential Directive/NSPD22
(c) DEPSECDEF Memo DTD 30 Jan 04
(d) ALMAR 016/05 Combating Trafficking in Persons
(e) U.S. DOS Trafficking in Persons Report DTD Jun 09

1. Purpose. To establish the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (15th MEU) policy on prostitution and human trafficking.
2. Cancellation. This policy will remain in effect until rescinded or superseded.
3. Applicability. This policy applies to all Marines, Sailors, DoD civilians, and contractors whether assigned to the 15th MEU permanently, on temporary duty, or as attachments. This policy applies to CONUS and OCONUS and extends to localities, businesses, and establishments where prostitution is legal.
4. Punitive Nature. This policy is punitive in nature and personnel who fail to comply are subject to administrative and/or punitive action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
5. Policy

a. Prostitution and Human Trafficking

(1) Human trafficking is the second largest illegal enterprise on earth. It enslaves and dehumanizes its victims. Trafficking strengthens criminal organizations, and threatens our national security by financing the operations of drug cartels, terrorists, and known enemies of the United States.

(2) Today, there are an estimated 12.3 million people in slavery around the world, many of them children. Most human trafficking is for the purpose of exploitation through prostitution and the commercial sex industry.

(3) Human slaves are present in massage parlors and brothels across the globe. The signs of slavery are often undetectable to clients of these establishments. Patronage of prostitutes is a direct cause of human trafficking and slavery. Many prostitutes are forced

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into involuntary servitude through threats, coercion, physical abuse, and kidnapping. Every transaction with a prostitute unavoidably encourages and contributes to the continuation of this degrading and abhorrent practice.

(4) As Marines and Sailors, our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment are a way of life. Parallel to our mission as the nation's premier force in readiness is the privilege and responsibility of representing the American people abroad. Every Marine and Sailor is an ambassador to the people of the world. We shall embody this role with professional conduct, compassion, and good-will.

(5) Prostitution is illegal, immoral, and is inconsistent with our values as Marines and Sailors. Furthermore, it spreads disease and subjugates impoverished people around the globe. Accordingly, the 15th MEU will not foster a "what happens on float stays on float" mentality. Prostitution and human trafficking activities have direct and negative impacts on U.S./host nation relations, combat readiness, family member morale, and community health issues. Patronizing prostitutes or sex industry establishments will not be tolerated. 15th MEU personnel violating this policy shall be subject to administrative and/or punitive action under the UCMJ.

6. Action/Responsibility

a. Leaders throughout the chain of command shall:

(1) Raise awareness among Marines and Sailors concerning the relationship between prostitution and human trafficking/slavery.

(2) Ensure all members of the command are aware of the policies and prohibitions set forth herein.

(3) Incorporate this policy and guidance into all safety briefs prior to liberty in OCONUS locations.

b. Compliance with this policy is the responsibility of all 15th MEU and assigned personnel. Leaders at all levels must set the proper example. All personnel will be held accountable for their conduct.


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