



HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FRATERNIZATION POLICY



Fraternization is a term used to identify professional and personal relationships which contravene the customary bounds of acceptable senior-subordinate relationships and is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

Professional and personal relationships, including duty, social and business contacts among Marines of different grades both on and off the base will be consistent with traditional standards of good order and discipline and the mutual respect that has always existed between Marines and Sailors of different grades.

Personal relationships between Marines or Sailors that are unduly familiar and that do not respect the differences in grade or rank constitute fraternization and are prejudicial to good order and discipline, and bring discredit to the individuals and the Marine Corps. This may result from any circumstance which calls into question a senior's objectivity, results in actual or apparent preferential treatment, undermines the authority of the senior, or compromises the chain of command.

If fraternization occurs, it's up to the leaders present to take appropriate action and report it up the chain of command. What is critical is that the chain of command is informed in a timely manner in order to take appropriate action to address the situation.

As a former Commandant has said: "Our challenge is to conduct ourselves in such a manner that we are judged worthy successors of that long line that has gone before." Fraternization has no place in the legacy of our Corps or in this command. If there is any doubt as to what constitutes fraternization, ask your chain of command. Remember, you may take off the uniform, but you always wear the title. Be worthy of it!

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