



COMMANDING OFFICER'S

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY STATEMENT

Each of us is different in various ways, yet we all bring our individual strengths together to ensure the success of MWSS 171. A detriment to these efforts is the misguided notions that anything other than performance is a basis to judge a member of the team. To this end, I will not tolerate, nor should you, that a member of this squadron be stripped of their dignity based upon their race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or sexual orientation. Equal Opportunity is a central component to our success as a unit as it provides each and every one of us the opportunity to contribute to our mission and to the welfare of all members

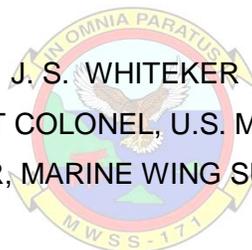
of the command.

Discriminating against any MWSS 171 Marine or Sailor based on his or her belonging, perceived belonging, to any group/category outlined above is forbidden and will be punished accordingly.

Discriminatory behavior takes many forms but all involve treating a person or group differently or in a detrimental fashion because they belong to that group. Such behavior includes denying professional opportunities such as promotions and awards, applying performance standards inequitably across any given rank, and restricting members of one group/rank from opportunities that are available to all members of that group/rank.

I expect any Marine or Sailor who encounters or observes acts of discrimination to take appropriate action immediately. This can be handled by contacting the Squadron Equal Opportunity Representative and utilizing the formal and informal reporting procedures. I encourage you to use the informal resolution system and let the command correct the problem you may have, but you always have the right use the formal method. All allegations of discrimination that are brought to my and the Sergeant Major's attention will be thoroughly investigated in a fair, impartial manner and appropriately resolved. **Discrimination has no place in MWSS 171 and I will not tolerate it nor will I tolerate reprisal against any Marine or Sailor for reporting incidents of discrimination.**

I expect every Marine and Sailor in this command to join me in establishing and fostering an environment in which there exists equality of treatment and the opportunity for all to achieve their full potential based upon individual merit, fitness and ability.



J. S. WHITEKER

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U.S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING OFFICER, MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 171