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POLICY ON APPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Standard. Social Media and the information technology devices that encompass our communicative lives are crucial to our mission. This technology allows us to communicate and coordinate with each other instantaneously. With appropriate and respectful use, social media can be an integral part of Headquarters and Support Battalion's toolkit.

Action. As leaders, we must focus our efforts on ensuring social media does not become a negative element of this command. As our Commandant has stressed, we "must address online sexual harassment, threats of violence, and other misconduct as we would address any other form of misconduct or destructive behavior." This involves being a leader and ensuring we police ourselves and our fellow Marines/Sailors/Civilian employees in the appropriate use of social media. Engage with your fellow Marines/Sailors/Civilian employees on how to act with respect and dignity while online. Educate them on the vulnerabilities and dangers of online activities and what can be done to protect them from these threats.

All members of this command are challenged to do their part to eliminate inappropriate conduct and behavior on social media. We must be proactive in protecting our Marines/Sailors/Civilian employees by encouraging them to report misconduct and supporting them when they fall victim to online attacks. All must know that they have the complete support of the H&S Battalion with the full contingent of assistance supporters: Chaplains, Uniform Victim Advocates, Equal Opportunity Advisors, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates, and technological experts.

Bottom Line. We are proud H&S Battalion Marines/Sailors/Civilian employees – even while online. We are ALWAYS accountable for our actions.

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