



From The Desk of V Corps Equal Opportunity Sgt. Maj. Evy Lacy

Sexual Harassment: Not In My Army.

The V Corps Equal Opportunity Office is committed to the education and training of leaders and Soldiers on the prevention of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is more prevalent in the workplace than most people realize. The majority of incidents, particularly egregious incidents, occur between supervisors and subordinates. The reason is plain: power is central. As a result, a victim of sexual harassment is more likely to submit and less likely to complain when the harasser is a supervisor who controls the norms of the workplace. This type of behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Leaders at all levels have a responsibility to uphold the Code of Conduct and preserve human dignity and respect.

There are two kinds of sexual harassment: “quid pro quo” and “hostile environment”.

Quid pro quo, a Latin term meaning “this for that”, occurs when your boss offers benefits or threatens to change your working conditions based on your response to demands for sexual favors. Hostile environment occurs when physical, verbal or visual sexual harassment is severe or pervasive enough to create a hostile or abusive work environment. This type of harassment does not require a loss or threat of loss of your job or the promise of benefits. Comments about your body, sexual remarks, and pictures of sexually suggestive nature displayed at the workplace create a hostile work environment.

Commanders at all levels are responsible for providing a safe and healthy environment, and must take action to prevent sexual harassment in their units. Families have given the armed forces their most precious assets -- their sons and daughters. It is the responsibility of leaders at all levels to take care of them and ensure they are trained properly before we place them in harm's way. If we don't live up to that trust, we not only fail the armed forces, we fail the American people.

For you'd like more information on Prevention of Sexual Harassment training, the V Corps Sexual Misconduct Awareness Campaign, or other EO topics, call me or V Corps EO Program Manager Maj. John Sirmon at 370-5768.5763.