



COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT



PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Sexual assault is a crime that destroys the lives of its victims. It is a complete contradiction to the core values that bind our organization as one. It's imperative that all Marines recognize the seriousness of sexual assault and understand that it is a crime that will not be tolerated.

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat, or abuse of authority when the victim does not or cannot consent. It is a crime that can occur without regard to gender, age, race, spousal relationship, or rank.

Military personnel are mandatory reporters. Failure to report or ignoring sexual assault incidents will have damaging consequences for both victims and those leaders who fail to take appropriate action. Where cause exists, appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against all violators.

It is key that all victims of sexual assault know that they can make a Restricted or Unrestricted report. Restricted reporting allows a victim to receive advocacy services, medical care, counseling, and legal services without involving law enforcement or the Chain of Command. Victims can make a restricted confidential report through a Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA), Civilian Victim Advocate (CVA), Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and General Counseling personnel by calling the 24/7 sexual assault helpline at 760-577-6036. Unrestricted reports made to members of the command or law enforcement will initiate formal investigations.

As the Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, I am committed to ensuring victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect and that they receive the necessary services that provide medical, psychological, and emotional care. As an organization that is committed to helping those in need, it is paramount that victim safety is a priority and all necessary steps are taken to uphold confidentiality and prevent the re-victimization of the victim by our organization.

Leadership is key to Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. Maintaining our undaunting character of courage, commitment, and honor is imperative in intervening and preventing sexual assault. It is imperative that all Marines adhere to White Letter 2-12 and be familiar with MCO 1752.5B.

Working towards eliminating sexual assault from our Corps requires a dedicated, collective effort and the actions of every Marine, Sailor, and Civilian. I challenge each leader and individual to accept responsibility for this goal. Our Marine Family deserves nothing less.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SKK", written over a white background.

SEKOU S. KAREGA
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California