

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

A wounded Marine must never be left on the battlefield!

**Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Logistics Base
Barstow**

STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

Trust is a key component in the military. As Marines and Sailors, we must trust our fellow servicemen with our lives everyday. Our trust in each other is what brings forth our success in battles and keeps America the strong fighting force that we are today. Unfortunately, there are times where this trust is violated. Whether by another service member or a civilian, there are military servicemen and women that have been sexually assaulted. As Commanding Officer of this installation, I am fully dedicated to preventing and properly handling sexual assault cases for all military personnel assigned to this base. **Sexual assault is a crime and will not be tolerated!**

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat of force or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. "Consent" shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated or unconscious. Sexual assault includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy, and indecent assault and/or attempts to commit these acts. It can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship or age of the victim. It is a complete and total contradiction to the core values that define us as Marines and Sailors.

If you are a victim of sexual assault, **you are not to blame!** You have the right to be treated with fairness and your dignity and privacy is to be respected. If assaulted, report it immediately to your command Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA), chaplain and/or the installation's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). These individuals will keep your information confidential. They can help you understand your rights and will provide information on restricted or unrestricted reporting. For more information on the rights of sexual assault victims, contact a UVA or go to www.usmc.-mccs.org/sapro and click on resources. Remember, education is the best tool for prevention!

Reporting is not only the victim's responsibility, but it is a team effort. We, as Marines and Sailors, must help the victim in receiving the proper help by advising them of the different avenues they can take. Together, we can help our fellow service members overcome this obstacle and keep our esprit de corps alive.



D. P. ERMER
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding

Leadership is the key to sexual assault prevention and response. As Commander, my role is to establish a climate that confronts the beliefs and values that lead to sexual assault, to establish clear standards of personal behavior, to protect victim-survivors and to hold offenders accountable. As leaders, all commanders, directors, and supervisors are keenly aware of and sensitive to the climate of the installation. I challenge them to continuously educate their Marines and Sailors on how to prevent incidents of sexual assault while also encouraging victims and witnesses to report these incidents when they occur.



COL D. P. ERMER

Eliminating sexual assault takes a dedicated community effort. I have appointed a team of subject matter experts to help our community achieve that goal. This team is led by our Sexual Assault Coordinator, Alicia E. deGriffith, available at 577-6533.

For 24/7 sexual assault emergency assistance from a Uniformed Victim Advocate, please call 760-577-6036.



ALICIA E. deGRIFFITH
SARC