



COMMANDING OFFICER'S
POLICY STATEMENT
ON
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION
AND RESPONSE (SAPR)



Sexual assault is not only prejudicial to good order and discipline, it is a serious crime that can deteriorate mental and physical health. It is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. **Consent means a freely given agreement** to the conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent. A current or previous dating or social or sexual relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the conduct at issue shall not constitute consent. A sleeping, unconscious, or incompetent person cannot consent. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship, or age, and it is never the victim's fault.

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Marines who report a sexual assault will be treated with decency and respect and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, and psychological treatment in a timely, professional manner. The Marine's safety and rights are paramount at all times, and all necessary steps will be taken to uphold confidentiality. Those who report sexual assault incidents must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and they will not be re-victimized by the organization. Offenders will be held accountable, and are subject to legal and administrative action.

Service members may choose a Restricted or Unrestricted Report. A **Restricted Report** allows a Marine to receive advocacy, medical, counseling, and legal services without notifying law enforcement or command. Marines can make a Restricted Report only to a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or SAPR Victim Advocate (VA). An **Unrestricted Report** allows a Marine to receive all of the same services, as well as command support and an official law enforcement investigation. Unrestricted Reports can be initiated with a SARC or SAPR VA, or by contacting law enforcement authorities or command. Military Healthcare Providers, the DoD Safe Helpline (877-995-5247), and the **MCLB Barstow 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line (760-577-6036)** are **confidential** resources available to all service members.

Engaged leadership is key to preventing sexual assault in our ranks and supporting those who have been affected by this crime. As Marines, we have a bias for action. If something seems wrong, find a way to safely intervene. Stepping in to prevent a potential sexual assault is always the right thing to do. Maintaining our core values of honor, courage, and commitment is imperative in intervening and preventing sexual assault. All Marines should be familiar with and adhere to MCO 1752.SB.

Eliminating sexual assault from our Corps requires a dedicated community effort and the support of every Marine, Sailor, and Civilian. I challenge each leader and individual to personally accept this objective. Our Marine Family deserves nothing less.

Semper Fidelis,


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Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Commanding Officer

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