



COMMANDING GENERAL'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT



Sexual assault is a crime. As defined by the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Marine Corps Order (MCO) 1752.5B, it is 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. Acts of sexual assault have a negative impact on individual safety, unit performance, and mission readiness. This criminal behavior is destructive to our core values and will not be tolerated. We will eliminate sexual assaults by strengthening a culture of prevention through presence, education and training, victim support, and reporting procedures.

Every member will be fully committed to maintaining the highest individual and unit standards of conduct, morality, and respect for human dignity. Bystanders failing to report or ignoring a potential sexual assault incident are equally unacceptable and their actions will have detrimental consequences for both victims and their commands. Any member who condones or ignores sexual assault will be subject to appropriate legal and/or administrative action.

Alcohol use is frequently cited in sexual assault incidents. Irresponsible consumption of alcohol places Marines and Sailors at increased risk. It is imperative that Marines and Sailors care for each other and not allow fellow Marines and Sailors to be victimized due to intoxication.

Leaders at all levels must be familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5B. Commanders will ensure all members of their command are briefed on its contents and receive annual refresher training. Marine Corps Community Services, through Marine and Family Programs, as well as the Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and/or Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA) will be utilized to assist the command in fulfilling SAPR training responsibilities as well as providing assistance to victims.

Victims will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim is released only to those who have a need-to-know, i.e. appropriate unit commanders, PMO and NCIS. Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims who choose to make a Restricted Report in accordance with the reference will have that choice honored to the fullest extent. Victims who have the courage to report must feel confident that their personal safety will be protected and that there will be no reprisal from the organization. Marines and Sailors who are sexually assaulted are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized. They will be treated with dignity and respect.

Our 3d Marine Division family deserves nothing less than our complete commitment to eliminating sexual assault.

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