



12TH MARINE REGIMENT 3D MARINE DIVISION

Commanding Officer's Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Policy Statement



The purpose of this policy is to eliminate the occurrence of sexual assault, ensure due process for offenders, and provide appropriate care to victims.

I will not tolerate sexual harassment or sexual assault. I expect all Marines and Sailors to know and understand the rules and procedures for how to act in the workplace and reporting this crime. Victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency, respect, and receive the appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services that they need. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim of sexual assault is released only to those who have a need to know (e.g. a Victim Advocate or Naval Criminal Investigative Services). Victim safety and confidentiality is paramount at all times. I will not tolerate Marines and Sailors that foster rumor and gossip or interfere with law enforcement agencies' ability to investigate unencumbered.

Per Marine Corps Order 1752.5C, sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against violators. Marines and Sailors who are sexually assaulted will be treated with dignity and respect. Victims who choose to make a Restricted Report in accordance with MCO 1752.5C will have that choice honored to the fullest extent. Victims who have the courage to report must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and that they will not be re-victimized.

Leaders at all levels must create a positive command climate which breeds trust, promotes sound decision making, and fosters a culture where victims receive full support. Commanders will assign a minimum of two Victim Advocates to serve as 24 hour response to provide advocacy and referral services, as well as relevant training to the unit. All hands must understand the intent of this letter, be aware of the process, and be educated on the criminal nature of the problem.

We must be able to identify signs or symptoms within our command and culture that can lead to a sexual assault situation before it happens. We do know that alcohol is involved in the majority of sexual assault cases. Alcohol consumption increases the risk of a Marine or Sailor becoming a victim of sexual assault. Do not be a bystander and allow one of your fellow Marines or Sailors to get in a compromising position because of intoxication! We espouse that Marines take care of Marines and I fully expect that you will.

Semper Fidelis and Be Ready to Fight and Win Tonight!

Michael Roach
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps