



3D BATTALION, 12TH MARINE REGIMENT, 3D MARINE DIVISION COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault is a CRIME. It is a crime that destroys unit cohesion, unit performance, and the very soul of its victims. It is an aberration that must be eliminated. It has no place within our Corps and I assure you it has no place within the ranks of our Battalion.

Sexual assault WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Looking the other way will also not be tolerated. ALL Marines and Sailors are required to report sexual assault incidents that come under their direct observation. Failure to support reporters of sexual assault or ignoring sexual assaults is a failure of our basic Marine Corps values and the basic intestinal fortitude expected of Marines. Where cause exists, appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against those Marines who fail to report any sexual assault or harassment.

Victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect. Victims will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. For unrestricted reports, care will be given to ensure that the identity of a victim is released ONLY to those who have a need to know (i.e. CO, SgtMaj, NCIS, local law enforcement). 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 they will not be re-victimized by their command and other Marines. Marines who are sexually assaulted are often physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized and wounded. They must be treated with sensitivity and care. We rightfully take great pride in taking care of our family members wounded on the field of battle... family members wounded as a result of sexual assault should be treated with the same vigor and care.

Alcohol use is a common denominator in sexual assault incidents. Excessive drinking of alcohol impairs judgment, and decisions made under its influence can have life altering consequences. Consumption of alcohol should always be done in moderation. As Warriors, we must look out for each other and ensure each other's safety when alcohol is being consumed. A person's consumption of alcohol and resulting impairment is NEVER an excuse for sexual assault.

Marines and Sailors at all levels within this Battalion will take immediate action to review the contents of Marine Corps Order 1752.5C Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program. Battery Command teams are charged with ensuring all Marines and civilians within their commands are briefed and receive annual refresher training.

Marine Corps Community Services is identified as the agency responsible for providing training to units as well as assistance to victims of sexual assault. Commanders will seek assistance from Marine and Family Services for training.

Marines, we cannot and will not tolerate sexual assault. The damage this crime does to our units, our ability to complete our mission, and to the individual victim demands no less. Commanders and Marine leaders at all levels are charged to create command climates that ensure our Marines and Sailors work in a safe, positive, and sexual assault free environment.

Victims of sexual assault have two reporting options available to them, restricted and unrestricted reporting. The restricted reporting option allows victims to confidentially receive medical treatment, counseling, advocacy services, and a sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE) if indicated. Unrestricted reporting allows a victim to access those same services, but command and law enforcement are notified. There are certain protections such as expedited transfer and military protective orders that are only available with an unrestricted report.



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