



Headquarters Battalion Commander's Sexual Assault Policy



Sexual assault is criminal behavior and will not be tolerated. It is prejudicial to good order and discipline, degrades individual and unit morale, and counters our core values. For clarity: 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 give consent. It is a crime that is not restricted to gender, race, or age. Eliminating sexual assault requires an alert community that is willing to get involved – that's us.

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program provides comprehensive services that center on awareness and prevention; training and education; victim advocacy; and overall system response. If you or someone you know is sexually assaulted, the SAPR Program provides crisis intervention and support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are two reporting options available, restricted and unrestricted. Both reporting options provide the victim access to support services such as medical care and counseling; however, the restricted report enables the victim to remain anonymous. To utilize the restricted report option, personnel must contact designated SAPR trained personnel such as Victim Advocates, Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and medical personnel. Victims may also report assaults to the Chaplain or legal counsel without fear of disclosure.

All Marines and Sailors have the responsibility to prevent sexual assault and all personnel must be familiar with the principles of the SAPR Program. While annual training is required, leaders should consistently talk to their Marines about behaviors and risk factors, such as excessive drinking, which create conditions where assaults can occur. These conversations reinforce the personal standards we expect from Marines and contribute to developing an alert community.

When reports of sexual assault are received, our first priority is to provide prompt and sensitive care to the victim, while protecting their privacy. Victim safety is paramount and those victims who choose to make a restricted report are to have that choice honored to the fullest extent. All allegations of sexual assault will be promptly reported to law enforcement for investigation and appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against violators.

The 3d Marine Division Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), and Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) stand ready to provide assistance to victims of sexual assault. Our Marines, Sailors, family members, and Corps deserve nothing less.

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Colonel
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