



Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battalion
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Statement

Semper Fidelis: Always faithful to Country, Corps, and our fellow Marines.
"First to fight for right and freedom, and to keep our honor clean."

-- Marines' Hymn



- 1. Sexual assault defined:** Intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when a victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault is an unthinkable crime that victimizes irrespective of gender, race, or age; it represents the antithesis of all that is Marine. Sexual assault not only undermines unit trust and confidence vital to mission accomplishment, it also threatens to irreparably tarnish the honor of our great Corps, honor we have all pledged upon sacred oath to fight for and to defend. Few threats pose greater risk to our combat readiness and mission effectiveness than attacks from within by a disgraceful few who have chosen to break faith and to prey upon their own. Proactive leadership by every member of this command is required to defeat this threat.
- 2. Zero Tolerance:** I will tolerate neither sexual assault nor negligent leadership that fails to properly mitigate the risk of sexual assault. All members of this command are responsible, and will be held fully accountable, for eliminating conditions that enable sexual assault, and every Marine is charged with proactively and appropriately intervening when situations or behavior may potentially result in a sexual assault. I will reemphasize: It is every Marine's inherent duty to prevent sexual assault. No Marine stands idly by in the face of a threat. Ensuring both due process for alleged offenders and victim protection, appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken where cause exists against both those who commit the crime of sexual assault and against those who are found negligent in their responsibilities to prevent sexual assault.
- 3. Prevention:** Our Sexual Assault Prevention Response (SAPR) program will place a heavy emphasis on prevention, recognizing that the vast majority of sexual assaults that have occurred could easily have been avoided through proper leadership and force protection measures. Our culture of prevention will be strengthened through engaged leadership, education and training, open and effective communication, heightened command awareness, proactive risk reduction, and the active support of highly competent and committed Uniform SAPR Victim Advocates (UVA). Additionally, our preventative efforts will be fully integrated into all other command force preservation programs.
- 4. Response:** Our sexual assault response procedures will focus on providing appropriate and sensitive care for victims, avoiding re-victimization, and reducing the negative effect sexual assault has on the health and readiness of members of this command. Critical to our success is trust. Victims must have complete confidence that they will be treated fairly, sensitively, with dignity, and without prejudice. They must also trust that appropriate confidentiality will be maintained at all times. Every member of this command will protect the dignity of victims and will only discuss sexual assault with law enforcement personnel and with members within the chain of command who have a need to know.
- 5. Reporting:** Reporting will be immediate. Neither I nor anyone else in this command will conduct an independent inquiry or investigation of an alleged sexual assault. All members of this command **MUST** report all incidences of sexual assault that come within their observation to PMO/law enforcement and the chain-of-command immediately. A victim of sexual assault has two reporting options Restricted and Unrestricted. Restricted Report: affords a victim the option to confidentially report without triggering an official investigation. Authorized individuals include the SARC, SAPR VA and healthcare personnel. Unrestricted Report: affords the victims the option to be fully supported by the command. I will ensure that all unrestricted reports are immediately forwarded to Naval Criminal Investigative Service as well as to Headquarters Marine Corps and to the Commanding General, 3d. Marine Division.
- 6. Immediate Victim Support:** If you would like to make a report of sexual assault, please call the local 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line, on base 645-Hope (4673) or off base 098-970-4673. If you would like more information the Department of Defense SAPR program please call DoD SAFE Helpline at 1- 800-995- 5247 (www.safehelpline.org). The 3d Marine Division SARC is Major Aaron Milroy, at DSN: 315-622-9775.

Semper Fidelis,

Matthew R. Nation
Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, HQ Battalion, 3d Marine Division