



COMMANDING GENERAL'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT



Sexual assault is a crime. Sexual assault is defined as the intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, the physical threat of force or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

TRUST - Sexual assault breaks down the special bond between Marines and Sailors that defines who we are. Bystanders who fail to take a stand or to report a sexual assault are not taking care of their fellow Marines and Sailors. Retaliation against a victim for reporting a sexual assault is equally unacceptable.

DISCIPLINE - Irresponsible alcohol consumption often sets the stage for sexual assault. Every Marine and Sailor must have the self-discipline to drink responsibly, and to recognize when intoxication places others around them at risk.

PROFICIENCY – We require our leaders at every level to be technically proficient, and understand the contents of the Marine Corps Order on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR). Leaders must ensure that their Marines and Sailors understand and freely exercise their reporting options:

- **Restricted Report:** Victims who choose to make a restricted report will receive medical treatment and support services without notifying the command or triggering an investigation. A Marine or Sailor who elects to make a restricted report may always change it to an unrestricted report. Your SAPR Victim Advocates can receive a restricted report, and the Chaplain or medical personnel can assist while preserving a victim's privacy.
- **Unrestricted Report:** An unrestricted report allows the victim access to all of the same medical and support services while also notifying their command and starting an official investigation of the crime. Information regarding the victim will only be shared with those who have a "need to know," such as appropriate unit commanders and legal or investigating personnel. An unrestricted report may be made to SAPR personnel, the chain of command, legal or medical personnel, or law enforcement.

I challenge each member of 3d Marine Division to step up, to take a stand, and to treat every fellow Marine and Sailor with dignity and respect.

If you have been sexually assaulted, help is available from your SAPR Victim Advocates or via the Marine Corps Base Butler 24/7 hotline: 645-HOPE (4673) from a DSN phone, or 098-970-HOPE from an off base or cellular phone.

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