



## COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION



*Sexual assault is a complete and total contradiction to the core values that we hold so dear. Eliminating sexual assault will take a dedicated community effort. I challenge each leader and individual to accept responsibility for achieving this goal. Our Marines, Sailors, Civilians and family members deserve nothing less than our complete dedication to this cause.*

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Ignoring or failing to report sexual assault incidents may have damaging consequences for victims and within the Installation. Where cause exists, appropriate legal or administrative action will be taken against violators.

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact when the victim does not or cannot consent, and is characterized as the use of force, threat of force, or abuse of authority. Sexual assault is a crime that is not restricted to any gender, race, or age.

Victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect. Victims will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological and social services. Care will be given to ensure that the identity of a victim of sexual assault is released only to those who have a need to know (i.e., the unit commander, Provost Marshal's Office, and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service). Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims who choose to make a restricted report in accordance with the reference will have their choice honored to the fullest extent possible. Victims who have the courage to report must feel confident that their personal safety will be protected.

Alcohol use is frequently cited in sexual assault incidents. Irresponsible consumption of alcohol can place a Marine at increased risk. It is imperative that Marines take care of each other and not allow a fellow Marine to be victimized due to intoxication.

Leaders at all levels will become familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5B. Commanders will ensure that all members of their command are briefed on its contents and receive annual refresher training.

Marine Corps Community Services (Marine and Family Services) is 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.

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