



COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION



Sexual assault is not consistent with the core values that serve as the bedrock of our Corps. I challenge leaders at every level to cultivate a respectful climate that is anathema to sexual assault. Eliminating sexual assault will take a dedicated community effort. 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 will have damaging consequences for victims and hurt our Installation. Where cause exists, appropriate legal or administrative action will be taken against offenders.

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, threat of force, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual Assault is a crime. Marines found guilty of committing sexual assault will be held accountable.

Victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect. Victims may receive advocacy, medical, legal and counseling services if requested. Victim identity will be released only to those who have a need to know (i.e., Unit Commander, NCIS). 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.

Leaders at all levels will become familiar with the contents of the SAPR Program Order (MCO 1752.5C) and associated reporting requirements. Commanders will ensure that all members of their command are briefed on its contents and receive annual refresher training focused on prevention.

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program is the agency responsible for providing assistance to victims of sexual assault. Commanders will seek guidance and assistance from the SAPR Program.

The Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Della Brooks, can be reached at 252-466-5490 or by contacting the 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line at 252-665-4713. The DoD Safe Helpline, 877-995-5247, is also available to assist victims of sexual assault.

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