



POLICY STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE



COMMANDING GENERAL 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

As United States Marines our reputation demands we hold ourselves and each other to the highest standard of conduct, performance, and discipline. Contrary to our ethos, incidents of sexual assault continue within our ranks. There is absolutely no excuse, no scenario, nor any perceived reality of a situation where sexual assault will be tolerated. Sexual assault destroys trust, undermines unit cohesion, and diminishes morale for all. It leaves those victimized with the challenge of reestablishing their lives both personal and professional. Sexual assault includes acts of physical, psychological, and emotional violation in the form of a sexual act, inflicted on someone without their consent. It can also involve forcing or manipulating someone to witness or participate in any sexual acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to sex, spousal relationship, or age. Consent shall not be deemed or constructed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, coercion, or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious.

Where cause exists, appropriate legal or administrative action will be taken against violators. Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, and psychological treatment with assistance from social services. **Victim safety and rights are continuously paramount.** Those who report sexual assault incidents must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and that they will not be re-victimized by the organization. Reporting an incident of sexual assault may be initiated via the following methods:

A Restricted Report allows the victim to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and emotion/psychological counseling support services without notification of law enforcement or the command. A Restricted Report can be made to a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), SAPR Victim Advocate (VA), Healthcare Provider (HCP), DoD Safe Helpline 24/7 (877-995-5247), or MARFORRES Sexual Assault 24/7 Helpline (877-432-2215). *In a Restricted Report, the victim's identity remains confidential, and it is not forwarded to law enforcement or command.*

An Unrestricted Report also allows a victim to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and emotional/psychological counseling services and an official investigation ensues. An Unrestricted Report can be made to law enforcement authorities or the command, as well as to a SARC, SAPR VA, HCP, DoD Safe Helpline, and (Installation) Sexual Assault Helpline (listed above). *Although the victim's identity will not remain confidential, care will be given to ensure that information is released only to those with a need-to-know (e.g., unit commander and investigating authorities).*

All members of 4th MAW must be willing to speak out against sexual violence and to intervene when necessary. We must ensure a zero-tolerance environment.

Semper Fidelis

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