



Commanding Officer
Marine Air Support Squadron Six



SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR) POLICY

Marine Air Support Squadron Six will maintain the highest standards of professionalism, in garrison or in the field, peacetime or combat, on duty or on liberty. This level of professionalism and basic human decency require that we take the best care possible of every Marine and Sailor entrusted to this command. Sexual assault destroys individual and unit morale, effectiveness, and efficiency, ultimately degrading mission readiness. Sexual assault is a criminal act that erodes unit cohesion, contradicts our core values, is prejudicial to good order and discipline, and will not be tolerated in this organization.

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim. Sexual assault victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. Victim safety is always paramount; victims who make a report must feel confident that their safety will be protected and that they will not be re-victimized by the organization. Failure to report, or ignoring, sexual assault incidents has damaging consequences for victims and their organizations. Where cause exists, appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken. While we will appropriately address sexual assault reports and care for victims, it is imperative that we also take an active prevention role; we must be more than bystanders. Every Marine has a role to play and can help create an environment where sexual assault cannot exist, by checking subtle innuendo, excessive alcohol use, and demeaning behavior, on duty or on liberty.

There are two types of sexual assault reports: restricted and unrestricted. A restricted report allows the victim to confidentially disclose the assault to specified individuals such as a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), SAPR Victim Advocate (SAPR VA), or healthcare personnel, and receive medical treatment, information, advocacy, and counseling support services without triggering an official investigation. An unrestricted report also allows a victim access to those same services and may be used to initiate the official investigative process but lacks the confidentiality of a restricted report. An unrestricted report can be made to law enforcement authorities or the command, as well as to a SAPR VA, SARC, healthcare providers, and chaplains. If there are any questions regarding the two types of reports, seek clarification from a SARC or SAPR VA.

I expect every member of this command to perform their duties with the highest standards of professional conduct and accountability. An environment where sexual assault occurs is inconsistent with our standards, and degrades our ability to fight and win battles, which is the primary purpose for which we exist.

Aaron K. Ruffins

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