



## Marine Air Support Squadron 6



### Commanding Officer's Sexual Assault Prevention Policy

Sexual assault is not only detrimental to good order but a serious crime. It is defined intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, or abuse of authority or when a victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship, or age of the victim.

"Consent shall not be deemed or construed 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."

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Failure to report or ignoring sexual assault incidents will have damaging consequences for both victims and their organizations. 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, psychological and social services. Care will be given to ensure the identity of the victim is released only to those who have a need-to-know. Victim safety and rights are paramount. Victims who have the courage to report must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and they will not be re-victimized by the organization. Marines and Sailors who are sexually assaulted are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized. They deserve to be treated with sensitivity and care.

We all must all work to ensure any victims of sexual assault are not afraid to report it. Victims have two options for reporting: restricted, which is confidential, and unrestricted, which is less so. Since the confidentiality is owned by the victim, it is within the victim's absolute discretion whether to report restricted or unrestricted. Note, however, that, once the victim chooses to inform law enforcement or the chain of command, restricted reporting ceases to be an option.

Options for restricted reporting include the Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA); healthcare provider; chaplain, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC); the DoD Safety Helpline (call, text, or chat online to 877.995.5247 or [www.safehelponline.org](http://www.safehelponline.org)); and Military One Source (call 800.342.9647). Options for unrestricted reporting include both law enforcement and/or the chain of command. Sexual assault is destructive and defies our Core Values. Marine Air Support Squadron 6 will maintain multiple UVAs that are trained and prepared to appropriately work through all sexual assault cases, whether the victims desires official action or someone to confide in.

In short, sexual assault is both morally and legally wrong, and it will not be tolerated.

Semper Fidelis,

T.V. MATTHEWS

Commanding