



Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Statement of the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve

Sexual assault is not only prejudicial to good order and discipline but it is a serious crime that can deteriorate the physical and mental health of the men and women who make up our Corps. It is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault can occur regardless of gender, spousal relationship, or age. **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. Appropriate legal or administrative action will be taken against violators, where cause exists. Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect and will receive appropriate treatment with assistance from available supportive services. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim is released only to those who have a need-to-know. Victim safety and rights are paramount at all times. Those who report sexual assault incidents must feel confident their personal safety will be protected, their privacy will be respected, and they will not be re-victimized by the organization. Victims of assault and those that support them deserve to be treated with sensitivity, care, and be given access to necessary resources. The two types of reports, Restricted and Unrestricted, can be made via the following methods:

A Restricted Report allows the victim to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and 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), the Marine Forces Reserve 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line (877-432-2215), the DoD Safe Helpline 24/7 (877-995-5247), or a local Installation Support Line. A Chaplain is also a source for confidential support. *With a Restricted Report, the victim's identity remains confidential and information is not reported to law enforcement or command.*

An Unrestricted Report also allows a victim to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and counseling services. In addition, an official investigation into the crime is opened. 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 Marine Forces Reserve 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line (listed above), or a local Installation Support Line. *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).*

Individuals within Marine Forces Reserve must be willing to speak out against sexual violence and to intervene when necessary. We are each responsible for assisting fellow service members with finding proper help and support after a crime. A zero tolerance environment requires a united effort and a commitment to treat one another with respect.

For assistance or information related to sexual assault, contact a SAPR VA or a SARC whose pictures and contact numbers can be found on SAPR posters throughout local units and HTC's. For additional information about the SAPR Program, refer to MCO 1752.5C.

Semper Fidelis,

David G. Bellon
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commander