



POLICY STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

COMMANDING GENERAL 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING



As United States Marines we hold the titles "The Few, the Proud" and "No better friend, no worse enemy". Sexual assault destroys these titles, erodes the fabric that holds us together as a fighting force, and degrades our relationship with households across the United States to produce and return better citizens to society. Sexual assault is a felonious criminal act, and under no circumstances will be tolerated. The Department of Defense (DoD) defines sexual assault as forms of physical, psychological, and emotional violence 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.

It is our sacred duty to treat everyone with respect, and in incidents where cause exists, appropriate legal and administrative action will be taken. We will protect the victim and provide safe haven for them to continue their career as a Marine while holding those accountable to the fullest extent allowed by the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and governing directives. Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect, and provided appropriate medical and emotional care. The following methods may be used to initiate a report of sexual assault:

A Restricted Report allows the victim to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and emotional/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), Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Victim Advocate (VA), Healthcare Provider (HCP), DoD Safe Helpline 24/7 (877-995-5247), or MARFORRES Sexual Assault 24/7 Support Line (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 access to medical, informational, advocacy, and emotional/psychological counseling services, *while* initiating an official investigation. This report can be made to law enforcement authorities, the command, a SARC, a SAPR VA, an HCP, the DoD Safe Helpline, or the MARFORRES Sexual Assault 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).

Sexual assault has no place in our Corps, and all Marines and Sailors must be willing to identify and speak out against sexual violence when necessary.

Semper Fidelis

Brigadier General Patrick F. Tiernan
Commanding General, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing