

COMMANDER
MARINE FORCES RESERVE
Sexual Assault Prevention & Response – Guidance to the Force



Sexual assault is not only prejudicial to good order and discipline but a serious crime that can deteriorate mental and physical health. Sexual assault destroys trust, undermines unit cohesion, and diminishes morale for all. It erodes the very foundation of our Corps and leaves those victimized with the challenging of reestablishing their personal and professional careers.

Sexual assault is defined as an act of physical, psychological, and emotional violation in the form of a sexual act, inflicted on someone without their consent. It can involve forcing or manipulating someone to witness or participate in any sexual acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, 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.***

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. It is our responsibility to cultivate a respectful environment and prevention focused leadership mentality at all levels. 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. 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 always paramount. Those who report sexual assault incidents must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and they will not be re-victimized by the organization. Victims who are sexually assaulted may be physically, mentally, and/or emotionally traumatized. They deserve to be treated with sensitivity and care. 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 MARFORRES and MARFORSOUTH must be willing to speak out against sexual violence and to intervene when necessary. We are each responsible for assisting Marines in finding proper help and support after a crime. Only our combined efforts will help us successfully create a zero-tolerance environment where all members can serve with dignity and honor.

For additional assistance or information related to sexual assault, please contact a **SAPR VA** or a **SARC**, whose information can be found on our MARFORRES website as well as posters throughout local units, HTC's, and installations. Fight's On!

Semper Fidelis,



Leonard F. Anderson IV
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commander