



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS FORCES COMMAND SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY STATEMENT

Let me be clear - ZERO TOLERANCE for sexual assault! Sexual assault is a crime that tears at the very fabric of readiness by destroying trust and respect. Sexual assault is intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, or abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Every member of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command (MARFORCOM), Marine, Sailor, or Civilian will become familiar with the tenets of Marine Corps Order MCO 1752.5B "Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program" and commit to eliminating this scourge.

We must all be fully committed to maintaining the highest standards of personal conduct, morality, and respect for human dignity. As leaders, we have a sacred duty to ensure the physical, emotional, and mental welfare of our Marines, Sailors, and Civilians, especially from the misguided and predatory behavior of those who would engage in sexual assault. Sexual assault is a blatant act of violence, abuse of trust, and the ultimate act of disrespect. It completely erodes individual and unit readiness and impacts the dignity and self-esteem of its victims, and leaves scars that affect individuals, families and units. Sexual assault is contrary to everything we believe in and fight for, and brings shame and disgrace to our ranks and our proud heritage - be an engaged leader and intervene at every level to halt sexual assault.

If a member of this command is the victim of sexual assault, they will be treated with sensitivity, dignity, and respect. Victims will be offered all available medical, emotional, psychological, and social services support. Care will be given to ensure every victim's identity is released only to those who have a need to know. Victim safety will be paramount. Victims who make restricted or unrestricted reports can be confident that their personal safety will be protected and that they will not be re-victimized in any manner throughout the reporting and healing process. Failing to intervene - or worse yet to condone sexual assault is unacceptable. Any member who condones or ignores sexual assault will be subject to appropriate legal and/or administrative action.

If you are a victim, or know of one, assistance is available through your command Uniform Victim Advocates (UVAs), Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs), chain of command, PMO, and NCIS. The SARC for MARFORCOM is Mrs. Christina Chavez and she is always available to assist you. She can be contacted in the office at 757-836-2070 or e-mail at christina.chavez2@usmc.mil. Take care of each other; lead from the front; and remember-Zero Tolerance for sexual assault! Only by being actively engaged can you remain Semper Fidelis!

JOHN E. WISSLER
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Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces Command