



SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY STATEMENT HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTALION FLEET MARINE FORCE, ATLANTIC U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES COMMAND



Sexual assault is a crime which contradicts everything we stand for as Marines. MCO 1752.5C defines sexual assault as intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual offenses per the UCMJ consist of: rape, sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, or attempts to

commit these offenses. Sexual assault is not restricted to any gender, race, or age.

I expect all members to know your responsibilities and available resources to prevent, identify, report, and otherwise address sexual assault. Ignoring indicators of sexual assault only increases damage to the victim, the unit, and our Marine Corps. If you are a victim of or a witness to sexual assault, immediately seek one of the many resources available to ensure the victim's wellbeing.

Sexual assault victims can make Restricted (confidential) or Unrestricted Reports. Victims can elect either the Restricted or Unrestricted Reporting option in writing via a Victim Reporting Preference Statement (VRPS), DD 2910.

A Restricted Report allows a victim to confidentially disclose a sexual assault to specified individuals without triggering command notification or a law enforcement investigation. A Restricted Report is only available if a victim elects the Restricted Report option, via DD 2910, to a person granted confidentiality. Only a SARC or SAPR VA may receive a Restricted Report. The victim will be informed of available services including medical treatment, counseling, chaplain services and the assignment of a Victim Advocate. A victim may elect to convert a Restricted Report to an Unrestricted Report at any time. Note: a victim may tell another person (e.g., roommate, friend, family member) that a sexual assault has occurred before considering whether to file a Restricted or Unrestricted Report, if the person is NOT in the victim's direct reporting chain of command/supervisor nor in law enforcement.

A sexual assault victim may also elect the Unrestricted Report option, via DD 2910, initiating an official law enforcement investigation. Once an Unrestricted Report is elected, the report cannot be converted to a Restricted Report. Any disclosure of sexual assault made outside of the SARC, SAPR VA, Chaplain, VLC, and/or Healthcare personnel is not confidential and may initiate a formal (independent) investigation. Regardless of reporting method, our first concern is the victim's wellbeing.

Dignity and respect will underpin every aspect of treatment, should a battalion member be sexually assaulted. Leaders will ensure victims receive timely and appropriate medical, emotional, legal, and social services support – all without prejudice or fear of reprisal.

I expect all personnel to set a command climate in which every Marine, Sailor and civilian feels like a valued member of the organization, and where being treated with dignity and respect is the norm. Inherent to this climate are leaders of all ranks mentoring their people on interpersonal communication skills and moral courage to prevent and, if present, detect and report sexual assault. No member will hesitate reporting evidence of sexual assault when it comes under their observation for fear of being ignored, ostracized, or re-victimized by those who are their most important source of support – members of their own unit and their leaders.

For more information or to report a sexual assault, contact the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Hampton Roads, 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line, 757-402-2569, our Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates, our Sexual Assault Response Coordinator 757-836-2070, your health service providers, your chain of command, or NCIS 757-444-7327. These professionals are available 24 hours a day. They are trained to assist victims in dealing with the command, law enforcement, and medical personnel and can advise victims of their reporting options.

I have every confidence that, in battle, you and your teammates would not hesitate to protect one another. Similarly, if your fellow Marine, Sailor, or civilian were injured in combat, you would rush them to care. The standard in combat is the same at home. Marines and the people who serve with Marines are not bystanders – never hesitate to intervene and report; most importantly, stay actively engaged to prevent!


M. R. REID
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps


B. S. DRIVER
Sergeant Major, U.S. Marine Corps