



FLEET MARINE FORCES, ATLANTIC, MARINE FORCES COMMAND, MARINE FORCES NORTHERN COMMAND SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM POLICY STATEMENT

Sexual assault continues to affect our Marines, Sailors, civilians, and family members. As the Nation's premier fighting force, we will take a proactive approach in preventing and responding to sexual assault. Sexual assault is a crime that is incompatible with our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. It erodes unit cohesion, destroys trust, and diminishes morale.

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault is not restricted to any gender, race, sexual orientation, or age. To protect our most precious assets, we must understand our individual

responsibility to create and reinforce a command climate that promotes professionalism, wellness, solidarity, dignity, and respect. Prevention-focused leadership is key to promoting protective factors that eliminate behaviors that condone or encourage prohibited and/or criminal behavior. We must understand that sexual assault is a crime and those who commit such acts will be held accountable.

Victims who choose to report must be acknowledged for their courage. We must honor and respect their decision by treating them with sensitivity, decency, and respect. We must be familiar with Sexual Assault Prevention Response (SAPR) policy that governs reporting options and the expansion of restricted reporting; and any other SAPR related policy that supports victim care and affords survivors access to the appropriate medical, emotional, and psychological care. We must be proactive in eliminating any opportunity for retaliation.

If you are a victim of sexual assault, there are confidential resources available to discuss your reporting options and support your recovery: Naval Support Activity (NSA) Hampton Roads 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line, 757-402-2569; Marine Forces (MARFOR) Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, 757-836-2070; the SAPR Command Victim Advocates (VA), 757-836-2191/2196/2084; and the Department of Defense SAFE Helpline, 877-995-5247, <https://www.safehelpline.org>.

Leadership is key to executing the SAPR mission. We must drive the prevention conversation and take a proactive approach to ensuring we have a robust SAPR capability. All Marines, Sailors, and civilians shall be familiar with the SAPR program (MCO 1752.5C) and be accountable to their role in the prevention of sexual assault. We must not deviate from policy, short-cut annual training, or minimize the importance of prevention. We shall support those who come forward, know our resources, and mentor and empower our Marines, Sailors, and civilians to intervene and prevent sexual assault!

Remain Semper Fidelis!

R. L. SHEA

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