



**FLEET MARINE FORCE, 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. It erodes unit cohesion, destroys trust, and diminishes morale. It leaves those victimized with the challenge of putting their life and career back together. 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, 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. We must commit to creating a climate that encourages peer-leadership that will confront all behaviors that contribute, condone, support, or encourage prohibited and 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 policy to appropriately support all victims who come forward by affording them access to the appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. We must eliminate any opportunity for any forms of retaliation to occur as a result of someone coming forward.

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, your unit SAPR Victim Advocates (VA) and the Department of Defense SAFE Helpline, 877-995-5247, <https://safehelpline.org>.

Leadership is key to executing the SAPR mission. Commanders have to drive the conversation and know when to ask for help. They must take a proactive approach to ensure they have a robust response and prevention capability that is sustainable over time. All members of this command shall become familiar with the SAPR program (MCO 1752.5C) and be accountable to your role in the prevention of sexual assault. We must be intentional in identifying the right Marines, Sailors and civilians to serve as SARCs and SAPR VAs. We must not deviate from policy, short-cut annual training, or think prevention occurs once a year. Utilize your resources, develop your programs, and mentor and empower your Marines, Sailors, and civilians to intervene and prevent sexual assault!

Remain Semper Fidelis!

M. E. LANGLEY
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