



## Commanding Officer's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Policy



"Sexual assault is a crime that is completely incompatible with our core values of honor, courage and commitment. It is an affront to the basic American principles we so bravely defend. Sexual assault goes against everything we claim to be as Marines."  
- MCO 1752.5B

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. This crime can and does occur regardless of gender, spousal relationship, or age of the victim. Because of their similarity in titles, sexual harassment and sexual assault are often confused. The way to simply distinguish the two incidents is to remember that sexual harassment typically involves words or acts of a sexual nature that are "hands off," whereas sexual assault is "hands on," since it involves unwanted sexual contact.

Preventing this crime will be a constant focus within our Battalion, and we will work aggressively to maintain a work environment that promotes mutual respect. Victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, and psychological support. Care must be given to protect the identity of the victim, releasing information only to those who have a *need-to-know*, as victim safety and rights are the priority. A victim of sexual assault must feel confident that their personal safety will be protected and they will not be re-victimized by the organization upon reporting. Reporting an incident of sexual assault may be initiated via the two following means:

- **Restricted Report:** A restricted report allows the victim to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and emotional/psychological counseling support services without the notification of law enforcement or the command. A restricted report can be made to a Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA), Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Healthcare Provider, DoD Safe Helpline 24/7 (877-995-5247), or MCB Pendleton's Sexual Assault 24/7 Help Line at (760-500-1707). In a restricted report, the victim's identity remains confidential, and it is not forwarded to law enforcement or command authorities.

- **Unrestricted Report:** An unrestricted report also allows a victim to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and emotional/psychological counseling support services, and an official investigation ensues. An unrestricted report can be made to law enforcement authorities or anyone in the chain of command, as well as to a UVA, SARC, Healthcare Provider, Chaplain, DoD Safe Helpline, and the Sexual Assault Help Line. While the victim identity will not remain confidential, strict care will be given to ensure that it is released only to those with an actual need-to-know (i.e. the commander and investigating authorities).

Sexual assault undermines the special trust and confidence that exists between Marines and Sailors, and creates a toxic environment that will have lasting negative effect upon morale and mission accomplishment. I charge all Marines and Sailors to remain alert for indicators of a potential sexual assault, and to take action before irreparable damage occurs to our Battalion and Corps.

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