



1st Battalion, 1st Marines Commanding Officer's Statement Sexual Assault



Sexual Assault is a crime that is inconsistent with our core values and directly undermines readiness, unit cohesion, and morale. Sexual assault—one person taking physical advantage of another when that person does not, or cannot consent—has become a stain on the proud history and tradition of the Corps. This battalion will take action to educate Marines and Sailors on sexual assault and will do everything within the commander's authority to prevent sexual assault, support victims, and hold offenders and facilitators accountable.

Eliminating sexual assault in the Marine Corps is a priority at all levels of the chain of command. **To be clear—sexual assault is a crime that affects all units and all Marines and Sailors regardless of gender or sexual orientation.** We will act in conjunction with the Commandant's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Campaign Plan to reduce with the goal of eliminating instances of sexual assaults. Tackling this issue and achieving results will require nothing less than the decisive and engaged leadership of every member of First Battalion, First Marines.

This command will not tolerate sexual assault and will hold accountable those who commit this crime as well as those who facilitate sexual assault as inactive bystanders or through active participation in the crime. Marines and Sailors must understand the importance of consent in sexual relations and be aware of the role that alcohol and drugs often play in sexual assault incidents. Lastly, Marines and Sailors must understand their responsibility to actively identify and intervene in situations where a fellow service member or civilian could be victimized.

Finally, every Marine must know the difference between a restricted and unrestricted report of sexual assault. **Marines that witness or have knowledge of a sexual assault have an obligation to report the incident.** Regardless of the type of the report used, this command will support victims and respect their confidentiality. This command will also ensure that victims receive timely and appropriate medical, psychological, and social service support.

Victims of sexual assault can file an unrestricted report of the crime immediately to the Provost Marshal Office at (760) 763-2077 or local law enforcement officials. Timely reporting and prompt investigation of sexual assault by law enforcement is often critical in holding offenders accountable. Victims of sexual assault can also contact the contact the Battalion Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA), HM1 Placencia at (760) 763-1831 to receive confidential advice on reporting and support options. If the UVA is unavailable, victims should contact the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) for Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton at (760) 500-1707.

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