

Sexual Assault Prevention Policy

Sexual assault is a crime that undermines trust, good order and discipline within our formation; it is an attack on our warfighting readiness, and it will not be tolerated.

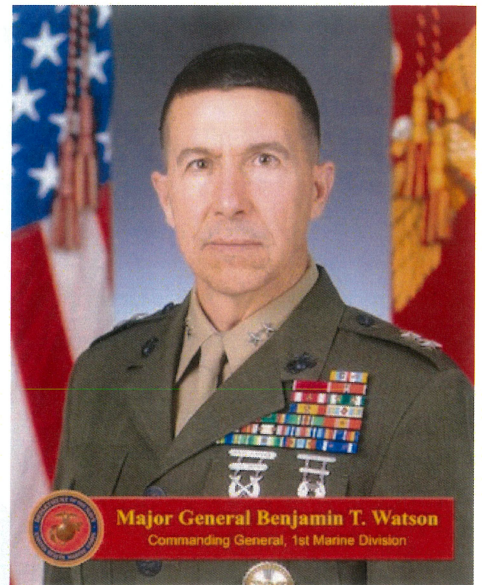
Every member of the 1st Marine Division is responsible for ensuring an environment in which every Marine, Sailor, and civilian is treated with dignity and respect at all times. Statistics indicate that the majority of sexual assaults within our Corps do not involve outsiders; they involve Marines and Sailors attacking other Marines and Sailors. Equally disturbing is the fact that bystanders – often a fellow Marine or group of Marines – witnessed this life-changing crime and did nothing to stop it.

Marines must demonstrate the moral courage to intervene when their instincts tell them that a situation is deteriorating and the potential for a sexual assault emerges. Far too often, alcohol is the common denominator that fuels the rise of such dangerous and potentially criminal situations. Alcohol is not an excuse for violating our clear standards of behavior, or for committing a crime.

Every victim of sexual assault must have absolute confidence in our unwavering commitment to ensure that he or she will be treated with dignity, sensitivity, and respect, and receive the appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual assistance required. Victims who choose to report an assault as an unrestricted report must have confidence that their identity will be released only to those with a need to know. Those victims who make a restricted report will have their privacy honored to the fullest extent possible, while being provided the appropriate requested care.

Sexual assault prevention takes many forms, beginning with the continued education of all hands, and the steadfast attention of commanders and leaders at every level. Commanders will be familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5C, “Sexual Assault Prevention and Response,” and ensure that leaders throughout the Division are focusing their fullest energies on preventing sexual assault through foundational leadership. When a sexual assault occurs, commanders must utilize all resources available, from SAPR Victim Advocates and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, to our command Chaplains and appropriate medical personnel, to respond to the needs of our Marines and Sailors.

As Marines, our Core Values – Honor, Courage, and Commitment – are the foundation for all that we stand for, and provide a guide to how we conduct ourselves at all times. Sexual assault runs directly counter to our Core Values and serves to erode the good order and discipline that are the hallmarks of our Corps. I want every member of the Blue Diamond to know that I expect their full attention on this issue; sexual assault is a frontal assault on our Core Values and will not be tolerated.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Watson", written over a faint, large, vertical watermark that says "GOLDEN RULE".

BENJAMIN T. WATSON
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General, 1st Marine Division