

HEADQUARTERS BATTALION  
1ST MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF

COMMANDER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON  
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND  
RESPONSE



Sexual assault is a crime which is not unique to any gender, race, or age. It is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, or abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent. I will not tolerate sexual assault within our Standard Bearer team, nor will I tolerate any failure to intervene in or report sexual assault incidents. The men and women in this command will not tolerate this, either. These incidents have corrosive and destructive consequences for both victims and their organizations, and appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against violators.

Alcohol use frequently contributes to sexual assault incidents. Irresponsible alcohol consumption places Marines and Sailors at increased risk. It is imperative that all men and women take care of each other and not allow a fellow Standard Bearer to be victimized due to intoxication.

Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect, and they will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services and support. Care will be given to ensure the victim's identity is released only to those with a "need to know." Victim safety is paramount at all times, and victims who choose to make a restricted report in accordance with MCO 1752.5C will have that choice honored to the fullest. Victims must feel confident that their personal safety will be protected and that the organization and fellow Marines will support and not retaliate in any way.

Leadership, education, training, awareness, and intervention are the keys to eliminating sexual assault. It is the responsibility of every member of the Standard Bearer team who witnesses physical, sexual, or verbal assault to take appropriate action to stop the activity and to immediately report it to the chain of command.

Additional information and assistance is available through the command's Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), the 1st Marine Division's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), and the Marine Corps Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (MCO 1752.50).

Semper Fidelis,

C. C. Readinger  
Colonel USMC  
Commanding Officer

BEAR THE STANDARD