

COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual Assault is a crime and will not be tolerated. 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 is not restricted by gender, age, or rank. Where cause exists, appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against violators.



Preventing Sexual Assault is not an option but the responsibility of every member of this command. **DO NOT BE A BYSTANDER.** Take a stand; say something; do something; protect your fellow Marines and Sailors. Sexual assault destroys unit cohesion, combat readiness, and has a life-long effect on individuals. I need your leadership and courage to eliminate this terrible offense that occurs inside and outside our ranks. Leadership and teamwork are our greatest weapons in the fight against sexual assault. I expect leaders to safeguard their subordinates with their lives and I expect subordinates to be smart. Use the buddy system to the greatest extent possible. There is strength in numbers. Be a hard target for predators and never let your guard down or allow yourself to be in a compromising position.

Leaders at all levels are charged to diligently study and embrace MCO 1752.5B, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program. Commanders will appoint, at a minimum, two SAPR Victim Advocates (VA) per battalion. When a sexual assault occurs, commanders shall utilize the resources available through the SAPR Victim Advocates (VAs) and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) to respond effectively.

VICTIM SAFETY WILL ALWAYS BE MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY. Victims are to receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services in a timely, professional manner. No one should ever be given cause to doubt the Corps' commitment to ensuring all are treated with the utmost dignity, sensitivity, and respect while receiving the appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual assistance. Victims who elect to make an **unrestricted report** of sexual assault will only have their identity released to those with a need-to-know. Victims who elect to file a **restricted report** will have their privacy honored to the utmost extent possible, while receiving the appropriate care requested.

I want every member of 1st Marine Regiment to live and work in an environment free from sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexist behavior, all of which erode our institution and destroy our team.

To report a sexual assault or speak with a Victim Advocate, call the 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line at (760) 500-1707 or the DoD Safe Helpline at (877) 995-5247.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin E. Clark".

K. E. CLARK