

# Commanding Officer's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Policy



SAPR is a victim's based program. Sexual Assault takes many forms and may involve everything from improper sexual contact to violent rape. The SAPR program focuses on the prevention of sexual misconduct or assault from occurring as well as the actions necessary to safeguard and provide support to victims of sexual assault. Many cases of sexual assault involve individuals who are under the influence of alcohol and are unable to give or understand consent. We must educate the Marines and Sailors of the command to understand what it means to provide consent for sexual acts. Sexual Assault is a crime and perpetrators will be held accountable via the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It is incumbent on all leaders to ensure that all Marines and Sailors are formally educated every year through directed annual training requirements. Each battery will nominate a Marine (SNCO or Officer) to become a Uniformed Victim Advocate. The command will become familiar with MCO 1752.5C and able to identify, report, and address sexual assault. Ignoring sexual assault is damaging to the victim, the command, and the Marine Corps.

In the event of a sexual assault, victims have the option of making Restricted (confidential) or Unrestricted reports. Restricted reports allow victims to receive advocacy services and medical care confidentially by reporting to their Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates (SAPR VAs), Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) and health service providers. These professionals are available 24 hours a day and are trained to assist victims in dealing with the command, law enforcement, and medical personnel and will advise victims of their reporting options. Unrestricted reports made to members of the command, law enforcement, and other DoD employees will be used for formal investigations.

At all times victims of sexual assault will be treated with dignity and respect. All commanders will ensure victims receive appropriate legal, medical, pastoral care, emotional, psychological, and social services support – all without prejudice or fear of reprisal or ostracism.

Leaders will establish a command climate that makes every Marine, Sailor and Civilian Marine feel like a valued member of the organization, and where being treated with dignity and respect is the norm and never the exception. This is about ownership of our command and how it is managed. This command climate will be one where leaders of all ranks are mentored and taught the requisite leadership, interpersonal, and confidence skills to detect the signs of sexual assault. This command climate will be one where Marines, Sailors, and civilian Marines who have been victims of these crimes will not think twice about reporting them for fear of being ignored, ostracized or re-victimized by those who are their most important source of support – members of their own unit and their leaders.

Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVAs) are available to conduct training with Marines and Sailors in addition to responding to the needs of a sexual assault victim. The chain of command is always available to address concerns associated with the SAPR program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. J. Boston".

C. J. BOSTON  
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer, 5th Battalion, 11th Marines