COMMANDING GENERAL
MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS WEST
POLICY STATEMENT ON
SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault is the intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threat, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim cannot, or does not, consent. It is a crime that not only violates the individual, but also damages the entire command. This crime is not restricted by gender, age, or rank.

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Preventing sexual assault is the responsibility of every member within the command. Failing to report or intentionally ignoring sexual assault incidents will have damaging consequences for victims and units.

Leaders at all levels are charged to become familiar with the contents of Marine Corps Order 1752.5A, SAPR Program. Commanders must ensure that all members of their command are provided with information about the Marine Corps Installations West SAPR Program, and that they receive annual refresher training.

Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims of sexual assault are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized and wounded; they are to be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect. Victims are to receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services in a timely, professional manner. Care must be taken to ensure that the identity of a victim of sexual assault is released only to those who have a valid need to know (the unit commander, military or local law enforcement).

Victims who choose to make a restricted report will have that choice honored to the fullest extent. Every victim who makes a report must have confidence in the command and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program and must know that their personal safety will be protected and that they will not be stigmatized by members of their unit.

Alcohol use is frequently cited in connection with sexual assault incidents. Irresponsible consumption of alcohol can place a Marine at an increased risk of becoming a victim or a perpetrator. When appropriate, legal and/or administrative action will be taken against violators. It is imperative that Marines take care of each other to not allow a fellow Marine to be victimized due to intoxication, or to end a career if they are convicted of a sex offense.

The Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), Civilian Victim Advocates, and Counselors at the Marine and Family Services Center stand ready to provide assistance to victims of sexual assault. Commanders are responsible for selecting the best suited, most qualified representatives to serve as UVAs, and to employ the available resources for victim support, case management and training to ensure all members of the unit are educated about this crime.

Eliminating sexual assault will take a coordinated, community effort, and I challenge everyone to accept responsibility for achieving this goal. Our Marines, Sailors, civilian Marines and family members deserve nothing less.

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