

Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Sexual Assault



Sexual assault is a criminal act that is incompatible with our Core Values of honor, courage, and commitment. Acts of sexual assault will not be tolerated. All military and civilian personnel aboard this Installation are to take prompt and appropriate action to ensure they or others are not involved in any way with sexual assault.

Sexual assault 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. Sexual assault is not restricted to any gender, race, or age. Marine Corps Order 1752.5A provides specific guidance and instructions for identifying, reporting, and addressing the issue of sexual assault.

Our most valuable asset is the individual Marine. Each Marine is important and deserves the best leadership and support possible. Ignoring or failing to report sexual assault incidents is detrimental to victims and to this Installation.

All leaders are to take immediate action to become familiar with the contents of Marine Corps Order 1752.5A. Commanders are to ensure that all members of their command are informed about the Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Albany Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program and to conduct annual refresher training.

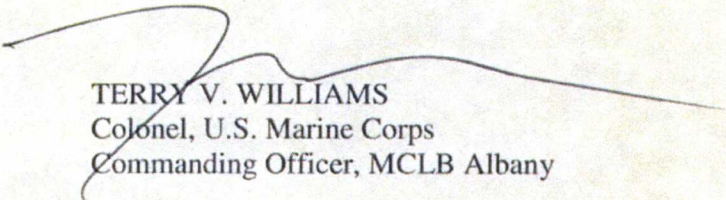
Victims of sexual assault are often physically, mentally, and emotionally wounded; they are to be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect. All commands are to ensure a victim receives appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. A victim's privacy is also paramount, and care must be taken to ensure that the identity of a victim of sexual assault is released only to those with a need to know. Victims who report sexual assault must feel confident that their personal safety and privacy will be protected and that they will not be subject to the revictimization of public ridicule or harassment. Upon receipt of a report of sexual assault, commanders are to conduct an immediate assessment to ensure that the victim is physically safe and is afforded prompt medical attention.

Ensuring that all available resources are utilized to meet the victim's long-term emotional, mental, and spiritual needs is also critical. Victims of sexual assault who choose to make a restricted report are to have that choice honored to the fullest extent.

The Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)/Program Manager, Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), Marine Corps Community Services (Marine & Family Services), and the Command Chaplain stand ready to provide an array of support services to victims of sexual assault. Commanders are to be aggressive in utilizing these resources to assist victims, manage current cases, and enhance training.

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault, please notify your UVA or the Installation SARC.

Eliminating incidences of sexual assault takes a dedicated community effort. I challenge each individual to accept responsibility for achieving this Goal. Our Marines, Sailors, Civilian Marines, and family members deserve nothing less.


TERRY V. WILLIAMS
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, MCLB Albany

Reporting Procedures

Restricted Reporting

Under restricted reporting, no investigation of your assault will occur. Your command, law enforcement personnel, and other military authorities will not be notified that you are a victim of sexual assault.

Medical treatment, and even forensic evidence, can be collected without having to officially report the sexual assault. However, unless the report is made unrestricted, evidence collected is retained for only one year; it is then destroyed and no longer available for future prosecution efforts.

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) will notify the victim's commander within 24-hours of receiving the report of the incident that a sexual assault incident has occurred, but will not provide information from the offender or issuance of a military protective order prohibiting the offender from having any contact with you, may not be available.

Restricted reports can be made only to Victim Advocates (VA), Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), health care providers (HCP), chaplains, and SARC's. All other military members are required to report a sexual assault to law enforcement or to their command.

Unrestricted Reporting

An unrestricted report is one where you disclose that you were the victim of sexual assault for purposes of starting an official criminal investigation. Your command will be notified that you are a victim. This will allow your commander to initiate the full range of protections and rights available to you as a victim, in addition to all the services and assistance available in restricted reporting. Your report is not confidential; however, your privacy is a foremost consideration. The offender's command is responsible for deciding whether or not to prosecute the case.

Contact Information

Marine Corps Logistics Base Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)
(229) 881-3883, 24/7 hotline
(229) 639-5277, office

MCCS Marine & Family Services Family Advocacy/General Counselor
(229) 639-5252, office

Lily Pad Sexual Assault Response Center
(229) 435-0074

Liberty House Women's Shelter
(229) 439-7094

DoD SafeHelpline, Confidential, Worldwide, 24/7 Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community
www.SafeHelpline.org or 877-995-5247, or text* 55-427 inside US, 202-470-5546 outside US.



James Carey Snipes
Installation SARC