



14 MAY 1990

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 1754.10

Subj: Reporting of Rape and Sexual Assault

Ref: (a) COMDTINST 1750.7 (series), Family Advocacy Program
(b) COMDTINST 5520.5 (series), Investigative Assistance

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Instruction is to establish policy and procedures for providing treatment for victims of rape and sexual assault.
2. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. The contents of this Instruction will be incorporated into the forthcoming Family Support Programs Manual.
3. APPLICATION. This Instruction applies when active duty Coast Guard members, or their dependents, are victims of rape or sexual assault. However, sexual abuse incidents occurring between family members shall be reported in accordance with the provisions of reference (a).
4. DISCUSSION.
 - a. Incidents of rape and sexual assault are acts of violence which leave the victims psychologically and physically traumatized. The assailant's motive, in the majority of cases, is not to achieve sexual gratification but rather to terrorize, humiliate and exert control over the victim. Directly following an incident of rape or sexual assault, the victim, who feels powerless to exert control in his or her situation, can experience shock, anxiety, a fearful lack of trust in anyone and sometimes will deny that the rape or sexual assault ever occurred. A victim requires immediate help to make him or her feel physically safe, to notify the proper law enforcement authorities, and to obtain medical attention and rape counseling.
 - b. The victim's physical, psychological and emotional rehabilitation depends upon a coordinated plan of medical and mental health intervention. A chain of responsibility within the Coast Guard will ensure continuity of care.

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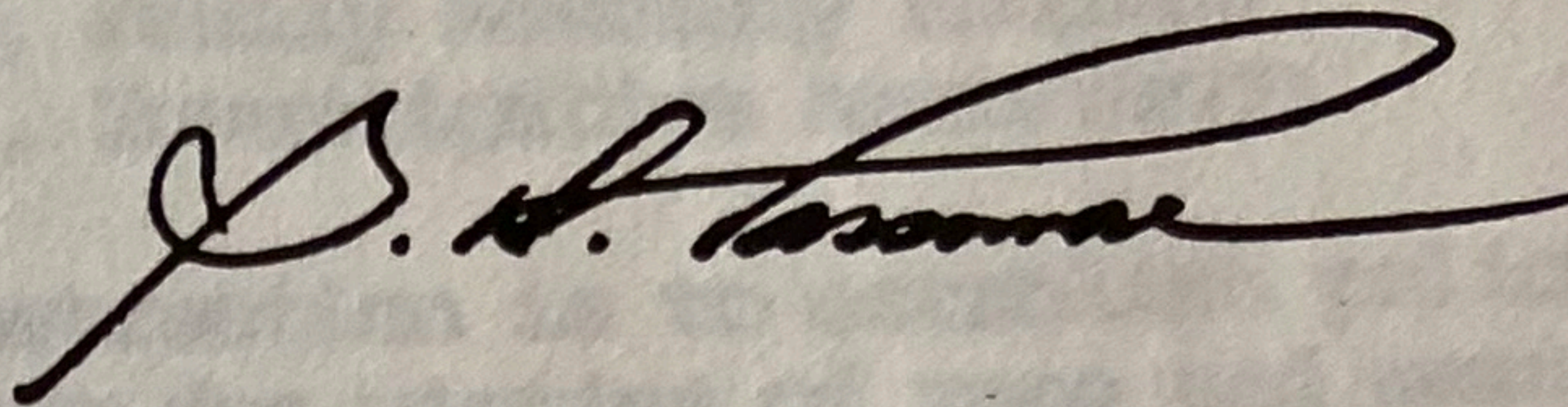
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4. c. Mental health intervention must be offered to a person who makes a false report of rape or sexual assault. This can indicate that the person has unresolved psychological or emotional issues.
- d. The legal question of whether or not a crime has occurred is a matter of determination for the proper jurisdictional law enforcement authorities.
5. POLICY. Rape and sexual assault complaints by a victim, or situations which cause a Commanding Officer or Officer-in-Charge to believe rape or sexual assault has occurred, must be reported to Commandant (G-PS-4) in addition to reporting requirements per reference (b). Unit commanding officers are responsible for carrying out this reporting policy, but may use Family Program Administrators (FPA's), and Family Advocacy Representatives (FAR's) in carrying out this policy.
6. PROCEDURES.
 - a. Commandant (G-PS-4) shall be informed immediately, via telephone, of all alleged rape or sexual assault incidents in which active duty Coast Guard members, or their dependents, are victims, in order to ensure treatment for the victim as quickly as possible. Commandant (G-PS-4) will coordinate continuity of victim treatment and geographic separation, if required.
 - b. District Commander (ole) shall be notified immediately, via telephone, of all alleged rape or sexual assault incidents in which active duty Coast Guard members, or their dependents, are victims, or assailants, in order to ensure that investigative efforts are immediately pursued and evidence is protected. Coast Guard special agents will assist FPA's and FAR's in victim treatment whenever practicable.
 - c. FPA's and FAR's will immediately refer each victim to resources for medical and mental health intervention.
 - d. FPA's and FAR's will encourage each victim to file a report and cooperate with the appropriate criminal investigative authority, per reference (b).
 - e. Because of the traumatic nature of rape or sexual assault incidents, FPA's and FAR's shall closely monitor the progress of mental health and medical intervention, and advise Commandant (G-PS-4) of any changes and problems regarding the victim's status.
 - f. Care must be taken at all times to remain non-judgmental regarding the guilt or innocence of the alleged offender(s). All case information must be kept confidential and no information from the case will be disseminated without Commandant (G-OIS) approval.

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7. ACTION. Area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, commanding officers of Headquarters units, unit commanding officers, and Commander, Coast Guard Activities Europe shall ensure that this Instruction is given the widest possible dissemination.
8. REPORTS REQUIRED. Commandant (G-PS-4) will be informed, via telephone, of the Rape and Sexual Assault Report, RCN-1754, as stated above.



G. D. PASSMORE
Chief, Chief of Personnel
and Training