



COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & RESPONSE

Sexual assault is a criminal act that is completely divorced from the Core Values that Marines and Sailors share, and it will not be tolerated within this command.

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault can occur between members of the opposite sex as well as members of the same sex; it can be perpetrated by one adult on another or by an adult on a child. The negative effects on an individual are devastating as it erodes the dignity and self-esteem of its victims, leaving long term physiological and physical scars. Sexual assault undermines cohesion, trust, and mission readiness.

While the safety of a victim and confidentiality are my priorities, prevention is key to combating this scourge. We all must be familiar with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program and be knowledgeable on command response protocols, reporting options and available resources. This education is essential to the successful fulfillment of this policy. Lack of education is the most common causal factor in the mishandling of the command response protocols. We will take a proactive approach to prevent incidents from occurring and to ensuring a proper response.

Victim safety is paramount. Victims will be treated with sensitivity, dignity, and respect. They will receive the appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services support. We will take all measures to ensure the identity of a victim is released only to those who need to know.

Two options are available to report a sexual assault: restricted and unrestricted. Both options provide the victim with access to support services; however, the restricted report allows the victim to remain anonymous while receiving services. Those who elect a restricted report will have their choice honored to the maximum extent and can contact designated SAPR trained and appointed personnel such as SAPR Victim Advocates (SAPR VA) or Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC). Victims may also discuss sexual assaults with the Chaplain or a Victim's Legal Counsel (VLC) without fear of disclosure. Those who make an unrestricted report should be confident that they will be protected from reprisal and that they will not be re-victimized by the organization.

Marines, Sailors, and DoD Civilians will be knowledgeable of the response protocols and will ensure confidentiality is maintained. Collectively we cannot condone, ignore, or fail to intervene to prevent a sexual assault. If there are issues of retaliation, reprisal, ostracism, coercion and/or maltreatment as it relates to victims, witnesses, and/or SAPR personnel; I will take the appropriate action.

If you are a victim of sexual assault, a SAPR VAs or SARC are available to discuss reporting options. Contact information for SAPR personnel is posted throughout the MATSG-22 Headquarters. Additional resources for victims can be found online at the DoD Safe Helpline on www.safehelpline.org or by calling the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line at (361) 438-7778.



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