



*“Rape and other sexual assaults are violent crimes that violate human dignity and the deeply held values of the Corps and the military as a whole. Sexual assault is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.”*

-- Gen. William L. Nyland, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, testimony 25 Feb 04 before Personnel Subcommittee of the SASC concerning sexual assault prevention.

## **LEADERSHIP IS THE KEY TO PREVENTION**

- The Marine Corps has made significant progress in our approach to the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual assault, however we will continue to improve.
- Sexual harassment and sexual assault are inconsistent with our core values: *honor, courage and commitment*.
- A victim of sexual assault is a wounded comrade and one whom will be treated with respect and dignity. Marines never leave a wounded comrade behind.

Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, issued [White Letter 06-03](#) reminding all commanders that allegations of physical abuse of any kind require the commanders' immediate personal attention and action. The command role in prevention is to establish **clear standards for personal behavior** and to **hold offenders accountable**.

**Armed Forces 2002 Sexual Harassment Survey**, which looked at the 1995-2002 time period, showed that sexual harassment and sexual assault on female Marines in fact has decreased.

The Marine Corps shares Secretary Rumsfeld's concern for this issue and supports his demand for a [90-day study](#) on the care for victims of sexual assaults.

### **USMC Prevention and Training Programs:**

- **Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention** training
  - Part of OCS, TBS and (starting 1 March 04) Recruit Training.
  - Annual requirement for reinforcement training.
- **Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program @:**
  - Senior Non-Commissioned Officers' (NCOs) Academies
  - 1st Sergeants' Courses
  - Career Courses (NCOs)
  - Advanced Courses (Staff NCOs)

**MVP program = “Marines helping their fellow Marines”**

### **Command Inspectors General:**

- Inspections focus on the prevention of sexual assault at every installation.

### **Victim Advocacy:**

- Our priorities are to **support and assist the victim, investigate the incident** fully and fairly, **report and track the results** of the incident, and continually **evaluate and improve our processes**.
- [Victim and Witness Assistance Program](#)
- [Victim Advocates](#) are an important resource for victims of sexual assault.
  - available 24/7 to provide information, guidance, and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
  - Marine Corps has 27 federally employed or contracted Victim Advocates and 125 trained volunteers available.

### Marine Corps is implementing the **Consolidated Law Enforcement Operations Center**

- Department of the Navy system capable of tracking reported UCMJ violations from the time they occur, through resolution.

### **DEPLOYED SUPPORT**

- Deployed commanders have investigative (NCIS), medical, mental health, religious, and legal resources available to them in combat theaters.
- Operational Stress Control and Readiness ([OSCAR](#)) program is deploying with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division for OIF-II.
  - OSCAR provides psychiatrists, psychologists, chaplains, and specially-trained Staff NCOs within a deployed division who can provide immediate, on-site counseling.
  - OSCAR is a two-year pilot program.