



Commanding General
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Policy
22 June 2012

Sexual assault is a crime, one that has lasting consequences for our Marines and Sailors. It violates everything we stand for in the Marine Corps, it undermines our readiness, and it endangers our reputation with the American public. 1st MAW is fully committed to eradicating this crime and we will do it through prevention and education, prosecution of offenders, and compassionate care of victims.

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. It includes rape, aggravated sexual contact and abusive sexual contact. Sexual assault is likely the most under-reported crime in society and in the Marine Corps, yet it can be devastating to its victims, whether the crime is reported or unreported.

Unit commanders are held accountable for establishing and maintaining a climate where sexual assault is not tolerated, where victims are confident their leadership will protect them if they report assaults, and where all are certain that the command will act swiftly to ensure those who commit sexual assaults are held accountable for their actions. **All unrestricted reports of sexual assaults will be referred to NCIS or law enforcement for investigation.** Commanders will ensure all members of the command are briefed on the references, and will establish “The Commander’s Protocol for Responding to Allegations of Sexual Assault” (Appendix C of the reference) as the standard operating procedure for responding to sexual assault allegations.

Many sexual assaults occur in the barracks, after working hours, and after consumption of alcohol by offenders and/or victims. Assaults often involve someone the victim knows and may have trusted. All hands must be attuned to our obligation to protect fellow Marines and Sailors and intervene to prevent sexual assaults, and to report an assault if discovered. Routine and engaged presence of DNCOs and unit leaders in the barracks, especially after hours, deters potential offenders and instills confidence in all Marines and Sailors that the unit is serious about their safety and security.

Victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, dignity, decency and respect. Their safety is the paramount concern. They deserve, and will receive: appropriate medical, emotional, psychological and social services support throughout the aftermath of an assault. Confidentiality will be enforced to ensure victim identity is released only to those who have a genuine need-to-know (unit CO, PMO, NCIS). Victims who choose to make a restricted report in accordance with the reference will have that choice honored to the fullest extent.

Victim of sexual assault, contact your unit’s Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA). The 1st MAW website includes a list of UVA contact numbers: <http://www.marines.mil/unit/1stairwing/Pages/sapr.aspx>

Sexual assault is a complete contradiction of our core values. Eradicating it requires an all-hands effort—all must be prepared to intervene, to report sexual assault, and to treat every Marine and Sailor as the brother or sister that they are.

Semper Fidelis

C. S. OWENS

Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
1st Marine Aircraft Wing