

COMMANDING GENERAL MARINE CORPS RECRUITING COMMAND

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR) POLICY STATEMENT

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. The term includes a broad category of sexual offenses consisting of the following specific Uniform Code of Military Justice offenses: rape, sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, forcible sodomy (forced oral or anal sex) or attempts to commit these acts. The crime of sexual assault is not restricted by sex, age, or spousal relationship of the victim.



Sexual assault is contrary to the Marine Corps' foundational Core Values of Honor, Courage, & Commitment, and has no place within our ranks. Witnessing any such activity without taking action is equally complicit. Being a passive bystander is not an option and will not be tolerated. Bystanders to potential assaults must take decisive action to prevent these incidents from occurring - to do otherwise is the opposite of what we stand for.

Victims of sexual assault have two reporting options: Unrestricted and Restricted Reporting. Both forms afford the victim emotional/psychological support, advocacy, medical assistance, and counseling.

- Unrestricted Reporting includes all suspected, alleged, or actual sexual assaults made known to law enforcement for formal investigation.
- Restricted Reporting affords victims of sexual assault the option to make a confidential report without notification to law enforcement or the Command.

Marines should speak with a SAPR Victim Advocate (VA), Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), or Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC) to gain a thorough understanding of reporting options and resources.

Victim safety, rights, and confidentiality are paramount. All victims are entitled to be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect, regardless of the reporting option they choose. Commanders will ensure victims receive appropriate supportive services - all without prejudice or fear of reprisal. Those who have the courage to report must feel confident that their personal safety will be protected and that they will not be ignored, ostracized, or revictimized by the organization.

All commanders will establish command climates where Core Values are maintained and reinforced, where being treated with dignity and respect is the norm and never the exception. Every leader is responsible for establishing a climate where ethical misconduct, sexual misconduct, sexist behavior, sexual harassment, and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned, nor ignored.

Sexual assault prevention takes many forms, beginning with the continued education of all hands, and the steadfast attention of commanders and leaders at every level. In line with continued prevention efforts, we will not accept excessive alcohol use, sexist innuendos, or demeaning and inappropriate behavior.

If you or someone you know needs immediate assistance involving sexual assault or retaliation relating to a sexual assault, please contact a MCRC SAPR Professional at 703.929.3245 or the 24/7 MCB Quantico Sexual Assault Support Line at 703.432.9999. Please visit <https://www.mcrc.marines.mil/Resources/SAPR/> for additional resources. The 24/7 DoD Safe Helpline is also available at 877.995.5247 or <https://safehelpline.org/>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. M. Field'.

W. M. FIELD

Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General