



COMMANDING OFFICER'S Sexual Assault Policy

“Sexual Assault completely contradicts the core values that we hold sacred.”

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, forcible sodomy, and other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful (to include unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts.

Sexual assault committed by Marines, Sailors or Civilians assigned to H&S Bn will not be tolerated and all incidents should be immediately reported. All sexual assault allegations will be thoroughly investigated and we will ensure victims of sexual assault receive the care and support they need while the offenders are held accountable.

Sexual assault victims are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized and wounded and will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect. Victims will receive the treatment and support they require and deserve without having to make an official report. Sexual assault victims who have the courage to report must feel confident in knowing their personal safety will be guarded and they will not be re-victimized during treatment and investigative actions. Whether a report is delayed or immediate, restricted or unrestricted, victims should understand that the command is here to support them.

Bystander intervention should be practiced and encouraged by all levels to prevent potential situations from escalating into sexual assault. Buddy accountability should become a standard behavior, keeping fellow Marines/Sailors from committing sexual assault or becoming victims. Alcohol use is frequently cited in sexual assault incidents and irresponsible alcohol consumption can place an individual at risk for sexual assault. It is imperative Marines and Sailors take care of each other and not allow an intoxicated service member to be victimized. Practicing bystander intervention is not ruining someone's fun but possibly saving their career or life.

Leaders at all levels will take immediate action to become familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5B. Section OICs and SNCOICs will ensure all personnel are briefed on the contents of the reference and receive annual refresher training from the command's Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA) or Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). To alleviate the barriers normally associated with victims of sexual assault (fear, embarrassment, shame) victims may notify one of our UVAs, with the promise of confidentiality.

Sexual Assault undermines our sense of team and completely contradicts the core values that we hold sacred and eliminating such criminal behavior from our ranks will take a dedicated effort. I expect all officers, SNCOs, and NCOs to embrace and enforce this policy.

Take care of each other!

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