



COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

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, or other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive or wrongful and also includes attempts to commit these acts.

Sexual assault actively undermines the combat effectiveness of a unit by creating a climate of fear and intimidation. We are brothers and sisters in arms, and we need to treat each other as such.

This scourge is one that damages not only our unit's combat effectiveness, but one that leaves lasting scars on its victims- mental, physical, and emotional- that cannot be undone. This goes counter to one of our Corps' three primary missions: to return better citizens to society. What kind of organization are we if we send those that willingly join us back to society with their trust and persons violated?

Excessive alcohol consumption increases risk and makes consent impossible. If you see a situation trending towards a bad outcome, I expect you to step in and actively intervene to prevent a crime from occurring. We ARE our brothers' and sisters' keepers, and we must look out for one another as such.

❖ Leaders will ensure that they and their sections are familiar with Marine Corps Order 1752.5C. The command's Victim Advocates or Sexual Assault Response Coordinator will conduct annual refresher training to ensure that all members of the command are up-to-date on definitions and procedures for preventing and reporting sexual assault incidents.

❖ All members of the command will actively foster an environment that encourages responsible alcohol use and a positive, professional command climate to actively lower the risk of sexual assault incidents occurring.

Sexual Assault destroys a unit's combat effectiveness as surely as any enemy action and leaves its victims scarred for life. We must commit as a unit to establishing a command climate free of this conduct and with your help, I am confident that we will.

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