

# Commander Marine Corps Base, Quantico Policy Statement on Sexual Assault



**Sexual assault is a crime that violates our ethos and tarnishes the prestige of the Corps. It is incompatible with our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.** Eliminating sexual assault requires a dedicated community effort. I challenge each leader and individual to accept this responsibility. Our Marines, Sailors, Civilians, and family members deserve nothing less.

Our greatest weapon in the battle against sexual assault has been and will continue to be decisive and engaged leadership. I expect every Marine and Civilian Marine to actively change the conditions and attitudes that allow this crime to happen among our ranks and aboard our Installation. **Leaders at every level are responsible to create an environment and command climate in which every Marine is treated with dignity and respect.** Marines must be able to trust their command to listen respectfully, respond confidentially, investigate immediately, and act appropriately.

The Department of Defense defines sexual assault as intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, forcible sodomy (oral or anal sex), and other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful (including unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts. It does not discriminate by gender, race, or age. Irresponsible consumption of alcohol places Marines at increased risk. **Marines, I need you to take care of each other and not to allow a fellow Marine to be victimized due to intoxication.**

Those who are sexually assaulted are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized. Victims who choose to make a restricted report will have that choice honored to the fullest extent. Victims must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and that they will not be re-victimized by a failure in our handling of the situation. We will take care to ensure that the identity of each victim is released only to those who have a need-to-know. We will treat all victims of sexual assault with sensitivity, decency and respect, and ensure that they receive the appropriate medical, psychological, legal, pastoral, and emotional care throughout their healing process.

Leaders at all levels shall be familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5. Commanders shall ensure that all members of their command are briefed on the contents of the MCO and receive the mandated annual refresher training. Leaders will be guided by the "Commander's Protocol for Responding to Allegations of Sexual Assaults" located in Appendix D of the MCO in responding to any allegation of sexual assault.

The Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Uniformed Victim Advocates, Command Chaplains, Healthcare Personnel, and Marine & Family Program Personnel stand ready to provide an array of support services to victims of sexual assault and assist each commander in fulfilling Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) responsibilities.

**If you or someone you know are a victim of sexual assault, please notify your UVA or the Installation SARC. They are your front line to guide you to the appropriate support and care.**

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