

COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault is an egregious crime that traumatizes a victim physically, mentally, and emotionally. Preventing sexual assaults in this Battalion will require effort from all personnel. I challenge all members of Security Battalion to take a stand against what is wrong and to protect those who serve with and alongside the Marine Corps Base Quantico community.



Leaders at all levels shall be familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5B. The MCO defines sexual assault as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, or 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. Any person regardless of gender, rank, or age can be a victim or suspect of sexual assault.

To prevent sexual assaults, we must all strive to eliminate unprofessional behavior within the command that wrongly sets conditions that enable sexual assault. These conditions include events with excessive alcohol consumption, work environments that allow inappropriate comments or actions, and barracks with insufficient small unit leadership.

Our continuous challenge is to stay engaged with every person in our unit. Through Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) training that includes ethical decision games, gender-integrated training early in every person's career, and other command team and all hands training, all personnel must be knowledgeable about sexual assault. Decisive and engaged leadership is our primary weapon against sexual assault. Every person needs to have the courage and fortitude to provide a safe environment for all personnel and to intervene if needed to prevent a potential sexual assault.

All victims of sexual assault must be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect. We must ensure that victims receive the appropriate medical, psychological, legal, pastoral, and emotional care. If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault, please immediately notify the Security Battalion Uniformed Victim Advocates or the Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. They will assist you with the appropriate support and care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Cato II", written over a horizontal line.

R. E. CATO II
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Security Battalion