



COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & RESPONSE



Sexual Assault and Consent

Sexual assault is a serious crime. It 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. Sexual assault can occur regardless of sex, rank, age or relationship status. It will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Consent is a mutual agreement among willing participants to engage in sexual activity; it should be clearly and freely communicated. It must happen every time for every type of activity. Consent to one activity or on one occasion does not imply future consent. Consent can be withdrawn at any point. Silence or **lack of physical resistance does not equal consent**. Consent is not valid when obtained through force or coercion, or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious. Involuntary physiological responses do not indicate consent. **If you have been sexually assaulted, it is not your fault.**

Zero Tolerance and Victim Care

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Where cause exists, appropriate legal or administrative action will be taken. Victims will be treated with sensitivity, dignity, and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, and psychological support. Personal safety will be protected, and revictimization will be avoided. Victim identity will only be shared with authorized personnel who have a valid need to know.

Reporting Options

Unrestricted Report: Allows a person who is sexually assaulted to report the assault and receive support, advocacy, medical treatment, and counseling with a law enforcement investigation and the support of the chain of command. Reports can be made to law enforcement, command, SARC, SAPR VA, HCP, DoD Safe Helpline (877-995-5247), or Installation 24/7 SAPR Support Line (703-432-9999). *Although the victim's identity will not remain confidential, care will be given to ensure that information is released only to those with a need to know (e.g. unit commander and investigating authorities).*

Restricted Report: Allows a person who is sexually assaulted to report the assault and receive support, advocacy, medical treatment, and counseling WITHOUT a law enforcement investigation and the support of the chain of command. Reports can be made to: SARC, SAPR VA, HCP, DoD Safe Helpline (877-995-5247), or Installation 24/7 SAPR Support Line (703-432-9999).

Expanded Eligibility for Restricted Reports: Victims may tell anyone EXCEPT law enforcement and still retain the option of filing a restricted report. If a third party informs law enforcement, the victim still retains the option of filing a restricted report.

Command Expectations and Accountability

Every member of this command has a responsibility to prevent sexual violence and support one another. **Intervention is a duty.** Report unsafe or inappropriate behavior before it escalates. Assist victims in getting help. Leaders and supervisors are expected to foster a climate of dignity and respect. They must respond professionally to sexual assault reports and ensure proper support and action in accordance with policy.

Retaliation, ostracism, or reprisal against those who report or support survivors will not be tolerated and will be addressed swiftly.

Supervisors and leaders at all levels will be held accountable for fostering a climate that promotes respect, trust, and safe reporting. Supervisors and leaders will ensure awareness of SAPR resources and responsibilities.

Contact Information

For additional assistance or information, contact a SECBN SAPR Victim Advocate using the numbers listed on SAPR posters throughout the Battalion or numbers listed below.

Commander's Statement

As your Commanding Officer, I am fully committed to upholding the dignity of every individual and ensuring the Battalion remains a safe and professional environment for all.

D. M. EDICK
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Security Battalion

Sexual Assault Prevention
Response Victim Advocate #s:
(703) 784-4498
(703) 784-2254

Sexual Assault Response
Coordinator #s:
(703) 784-3557