



COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & RESPONSE



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 without regard to gender, spousal relationship, or age.

Consent is an agreement among participants to engage in sexual activity; it should be clearly and freely communicated. It should happen every time for every type of activity. Keep in mind, consenting to one activity, one time, does not mean someone gives consent for other activities or for the same activity on other occasions. Consent can be withdrawn at any point. **Lack of physical resistance does not equal consent.** Consent is not possible when an assailant uses force or coercion because it can't be freely given. This also applies to when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious. Certain physiological responses are involuntary, meaning your body might react one way even when you are not consenting to the activity. A physiological response does not mean that you consented to what happened. **If you have been sexually abused or assaulted, it is not your fault.**

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Where cause exists, appropriate legal or administrative action will be taken against violators. Those who report sexual assault incidents should know their personal safety will be protected and they will not be revictimized by the organization. Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, and psychological treatment with assistance from social services. The identity of a victim will only be shared with those who have a need to know. Reporting an incident of sexual assault may be initiated via the following methods:

An **Unrestricted Report** allows a victim to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and emotional/psychological counseling services and an official investigation ensues. An Unrestricted Report can be made to law enforcement authorities or the command, as well as to a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), SAPR Victim Advocate (VA), Healthcare Provider (HCP), DoD Safe Helpline 24/7 (877-995-5247), or (Installation) Sexual Assault 24/7 Helpline (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).*

A **Restricted Report** allows the victim to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and emotion/psychological counseling support services without notification of law enforcement or the command. A Restricted Report can be made to SARC, SAPR VA, HCP, DOD Safe Helpline, and (Installation) Sexual Assault Helpline (listed above). In a Restricted report, the victim's identity remains confidential, and it is not forwarded to law enforcement or the command.

Expanded Eligibility to File Restricted Reports. To empower individuals to receive help for sexual assault, the victim can inform anyone (EXCEPT law enforcement) about a sexual assault and still retain the option of filing a restricted report. For example, if a victim informs law enforcement about a sexual assault, it is an unrestricted report. If a victim tells someone and that person informs law enforcement, the victim still retains the option of filing a restricted report.

All members of Security Battalion must be willing to speak out against sexual violence and to intervene when necessary. We are each responsible for assisting Marines with finding proper help and support after a crime. It is only by our united efforts that we will succeed in creating a safe and respectful environment for all members.

For additional assistance or information, please contact one of the SECBN SAPR VAs at the numbers listed below or found on the SAPR VA posters throughout SECBN.

D. S. RAINEY
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Commanding Officer
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Sexual Assault Prevention
Response Victim Advocate #s:
(703) 784-4198
(703) 784-2254

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