



HEADQUARTERS BATTALION COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR)



We will not tolerate sexual assault or sexual harassment in OUR formation.

I expect everyone to be engaged and focused on building a climate that allows our Marines, Sailors, and civilians to thrive in defending the Nation.

POLICY. Sexual assault is a crime that undermines and destroys the fabric of our Corps and our trust in one another. It is not compatible with our core values, degrades our warfighting capacity, and ultimately damages what the Marine Corps is known for -- being the most ready when the Nation is least ready. Sexual assault is defined in MCO 1752.5C as intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. A sleeping, unconscious, or incompetent person cannot consent.

PREVENTION. We will take care of our fellow Marines, Sailors, and civilians, and uphold our commitment to one another and to the Nation. Leaders cannot lead from afar and must be present where their personnel are, including in the barracks. Leaders must instill in their subordinates the importance of treating others with decency and respect. They must have frank discussions about what it means to have responsible and consensual sexual relationships. Leaders ensure that their personnel receive required annual training and should include sexual assault prevention topics in liberty briefs. We must encourage and sustain a culture free of sexual assault, by fostering an environment of prevention and education. The onus is not entirely on leaders. Everyone must play their part in preventing sexual assault.

RESPONSE. Victims have many avenues to seek assistance. There is "No Wrong Door." A victim who contacts a helping professional from any victim care and support office will either receive services or, with the victim's permission, get a "warm hand-off" to the appropriate resource, service provider, or point of contact, whenever possible. Victims have two reporting options:

- **Restricted:** Victims receive medical and other services, while keeping their identity confidential and without notification to law enforcement or the command. Victims who are covered by DoDI 6495.02, Volume 1 are eligible with Expanded Eligibility to file a Restricted Report, even if the victim disclosed the sexual assault incident to their commander or to personnel in the chain of command. Victims can also file if there is an ongoing MCIO investigation into the sexual assault incident initiated by a third party and not due to the victim's disclosure to law enforcement, or if the MCIO investigation into the sexual assault incident has been closed.
- **Unrestricted:** Victims' identity is not confidential, and an investigation will be conducted. Marines who make an Unrestricted report should feel confident that their personal safety will be protected, and their identity will only be released to those with a need to know.

All members of Headquarters Battalion are responsible for taking care of our fellow Marines, Sailors, and civilians. It is only through our united efforts that we will succeed in creating a respectful climate where sexual assault is not tolerated.


A. FARSAAD
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Commanding Officer