



Sexual Assault Policy Statement Lieutenant Colonel Andrew S. Harkins



Commanding Officer
H&S BN, 1st Marine Logistics Group

Sexual assault is defined as “intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent”. It is not restricted to any **GENDER, RANK**, race, or age. All members of the battalion will be aware of their obligations under MCO 1752.5C “Sexual Assault Prevention and Response” (SAPR) in order to ensure we are effectively positioned to help prevent sexual assault and to properly care for the victim should we fail.

All members of the battalion must be fully committed to holding themselves and their fellow Marines and Sailors, regardless of rank, to the highest standards of personal conduct, morality, and **respect for human dignity**. We must set the proper conditions to ensure the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of our Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines, and protect them from predators who aim to commit sexual assault. I have witnessed first-hand sexual assault’s long lasting physical and psychological impacts on the victim, their families/friends, and the organization. Sexual assault is contrary to everything we hold dear as Marines and Sailors. I task **each member** of the battalion to look out for one another, especially when off duty, in order to **protect fellow members** from predators which exist in uniform and out of uniform. With the use of a proper buddy system, we can make ourselves hard-targets and focus on preparing ourselves to meet our nation’s call.

Reports of sexual assault will be treated with the highest importance. The victim will be treated with the utmost sensitivity, decency, and respect. Victims will be offered appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual support. There are two reporting options: Unrestricted or Restricted. An unrestricted Report allows a victim of sexual assault to have command involvement and support, an official law enforcement investigation, and receive support services through the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and SAPR Victim Advocate (SAPR VA). The identity of the victim is released only to those who have an official need-to-know (e.g. Commanding Officer, SARC, and Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS)). Restricted Reports allow a victim of sexual assault to receive confidential support services through the SARC and SAPR VA without an official law enforcement investigation or command involvement. A Restricted Report can be converted to an Unrestricted Report at any time. The SARC and SAPR VA can provide more information.

Victim safety and emotional well-being will be of utmost importance. Victims who file unrestricted reports can be confident that their personal safety and confidentiality (beyond those with a need-to-know) will be protected and that they will not be re-victimized by the organization or reporting procedures. If a Marine/Sailor notifies their chain of command of an incident, that leader will immediately contact the SARC and conduct positive handoff with the victim. We will not force the victim to retell the story to each layer of the chain of command.

To report a sexual assault in a confidential manner, contact our Uniformed Victim Advocates, the 1st MLG Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at (760) 763-3597, or a civilian victim advocate through the Camp Pendleton Sexual Assault Support Line at (760) 500-1707; or the Department of Defense SAFE Helpline at (877) 995-5247. Marines and Sailors are the strength of our battalion. We must ensure that we look out for one another as we would a brother or sister. We are a family and such must **look after each other, both on and off duty**.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. S. Harkins", is written over a white background.

A. S. HARKINS

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding