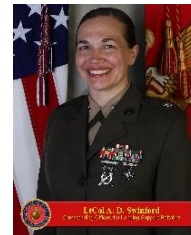




1st Landing Support Battalion

Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Sexual Assault



Sexual assault is a crime and those that commit it have no place in our Corps.

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, cannot, or has an impaired ability to consent"* (MCO 1752.5C). A lack of physical or verbal resistance does not equal consent. Consent must be freely and positively given. Any sexual actions taken without affirmative consent are a crime and are a clear violation of our Core Values.

Sexual assault can happen to anyone regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, or rank. It is everyone's responsibility to stop its occurrence in our ranks. To do this, we will take care of one another, intervene if someone is crossing the line, and do the right thing—no matter the situation.

Sexual assault is NEVER the victim's fault. We will use everything at our disposal to assist victims of sexual assault, including the right to expedited transfer, when requested. Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, legal, and counseling services. Victim safety and rights are paramount. While supporting the victim, our leadership team will also facilitate impartial justice for accused perpetrators.

There are two types of sexual assault reports—unrestricted and restricted. Either type of report can be made to a Chaplain, Medical Officer, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate (SAPR VA), Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), or your chain of command. Unrestricted reports enable victims to receive services, as well as command support and an official law enforcement investigation. Sexual assault reports made directly to law enforcement prior to speaking with a SAPR VA will automatically be considered an unrestricted report. Those that choose a restricted report will have their privacy respected to the utmost extent while receiving the services they desire. Both types of reporting are encouraged, and the choice of making a restricted or unrestricted report resides solely with the victim.

Everything we do to prevent and respond to sexual assault demonstrates our respect for others' opportunities to succeed and contribute to our mission. It also enables Marines and Sailors to continue to serve their country to the best of their ability. It is our duty to live our Core Values and protect each other from this crime.

Semper Fidelis,

Lieutenant Colonel Autumn D. Swinford
Commanding Officer
1st Landing Support Battalion

To report a sexual assault or to speak with a SAPR Victim Advocate, call the 24/7 MCBCP Support line at (760) 500-1707 or the DoD Safe HelpLine at (877) 995-5247.