



Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

Commanding Officer's Policy Statement



Sexual assault is a reprehensible crime and will not be tolerated in our command. Sexual assault is defined as, "intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threat, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent."

- Marine Corps Order 1752.5C, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program

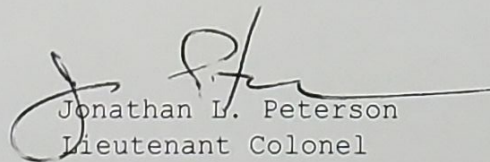
Sexual Assault has devastating effects upon morale and unit performance. Victims within this command will be treated with dignity, respect, and sensitivity. Victim's safety is paramount. All Marines and Sailors of this command need to familiarize themselves with MCO 1752.5C. Sexual assault prevention is everyone's responsibility.

There is never an excuse for committing sexual assault. Factors of substance abuse, ignorance, or the inability to handle stress are never excuses for committing sexual assault. If you are struggling with these conditions, seek help before it is too late.

Marines and Sailors are the vanguard of our nation. Just as we protect the innocent in combat, we must protect each other from these horrific acts of violence. As the Commanding Officer, it is my duty to attend to the welfare of the Marines and Sailors in this command and to ensure we accomplish our mission. Sexual assault negatively impacts both efforts. I am committed to ensuring that any case is handled promptly, appropriately, and thoroughly. Always treat others with dignity and stand-up to defend the vulnerable.

Service members may choose an Unrestricted Report or Restricted Report. An **Unrestricted Report** allows a Marine to receive all of the same services, as well as command support and an official law enforcement investigation. Unrestricted Reports can be initiated with a SARC or SAPR VA, or by contacting law enforcement authorities or the command. A **Restricted Report** allows a Marine to receive advocacy, medical, counseling, and legal services without notifying law enforcement or the command. Marines can make a Restricted Report only to a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), SAPR Victim Advocate (VA), or a Military Healthcare Provider. However, if a victim discloses a sexual assault to a Service Member in his or her chain of command, that Service Member is a mandated reporter.

Military Healthcare Providers, the Department of Defense SAFE Helpline (877) 995-5247, and the Camp Pendleton Sexual Assault Support Line at (760) 500-1707 are confidential resources available to all service members.


Jonathan L. Peterson
Lieutenant Colonel
1st Landing Support Battalion