



7th Engineer Support Battalion
COMMANDING OFFICER'S
Statement on Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention



"Sexual assault is a criminal act that erodes unit cohesion and contradicts Marine Corps core values. Every Marine shall be aware of what constitutes sexual assault and the consequences of such behavior."

- MCO 1752.5C

Sexual assault is a crime and will not be tolerated. It is incompatible with our core values and goes against everything we claim to be as Marines. Sexual assault is defined in MCO 1752.5C as intentional contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, forcible sodomy, and other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful (including unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts.

Preventing this crime is of the utmost importance in our battalion, and we will work aggressively to maintain a work environment that promotes mutual respect. Victims of sexual assault will be treated with decency and respect, and will receive appropriate support. A victim of sexual assault must feel confident that their personal safety will be protected and they will not be re-victimized by the organization upon reporting.

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and SAPR Victim Advocates (SAPR VA) stand ready to provide reporting options (Restricted or Unrestricted), as well as intervention support and support services to victims of sexual assault. The 1st MLG SARC, Ms. Monica Federico, can be reached at 760-763-3597.

To confidentially reach a Camp Pendleton Advocate, call the 24/7 Helpline at 760-500-1707. Additionally, the DoD Safe Helpline is anonymous, secure, and available 24/7 worldwide via phone (1-877-995-5247) or online at www.safehelpline.org.

Sexual assault undermines the special trust and confidence that exists between Marines and Sailors, and creates a toxic environment that will have lasting negative effects upon morale and mission accomplishment. Leadership is the key to sexual assault awareness, prevention, and response. I charge all Marines and Sailors to remain alert for indicators of a potential sexual assault, and to take action before irreparable damage occurs to a fellow Marine or Sailor, our Battalion, and our Corps. Treat everyone with dignity and respect. **Take pride in what you do and take care of each other.**

M. MESTA

Lieutenant Colonel, USMC

Commanding