



**COMMANDING GENERAL'S
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION
AND RESPONSE POLICY STATEMENT**



Marines, we need your support. The vast majority of you are doing the right thing, but sexual assault in the Marine Corps is real and unfortunately more prevalent than we sometimes think. We (this means all of us) have not moved the needle in eliminating this problem. Some will excuse this as a societal problem, but though it may exist to some degree in society, we as Marines hold ourselves to a higher standard in valuing one another and thus ONE sexual assault is ONE too many.

Sexual assault is a crime. Preventing sexual assault is the responsibility of every member of this command. Together we must attack this cowardly act.

Our Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) programs have done an outstanding job in the response portion...with unmatched support to victims. But the fact remains that there are too many victims.

Here are a few facts that may provide insight into this crime... many of the sexual assault reports at MCI-West occur when the victim is a new join in the unit within their first 60 days; the assailant is typically someone that they know, often from their own unit, and the victim is typically between the ranks of E1-E3. Sexual assaults usually occur between Friday and Sunday in the barracks, and between 60-70% involve alcohol. Unchecked sexual harassment, unprofessional personal interactions, and fraternization in a unit are indicative of increased potential for sexual assault. Prevention of PAC violations and positive command climate are critical to living up to the standards that we set for ourselves as Marines. This is a command problem, we must treat it as such; leaders at every level must do better at creating the climate and setting the conditions under which such attacks are prevented.

Much has been said about the influence of technology on the youth of today and the fact that it limits social interaction and personal relationships. We must therefore educate junior Marines about healthy emotional and physical relationships, responsible alcohol use (for those of age), and the importance of having a battle buddy. But we also must ensure that those in the high risk category described above have healthy outlets with supportive command networks, particularly during their first few months in a new unit.

Leaders at all levels will become familiar with the contents of Marine Corps Order 1752.5C, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program. 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. Sexual assault is a crime that cuts against the very fabric of our society and has no place in our ranks. It is a crime that not only violates the individual, but also damages the entire command. The above statistics notwithstanding, this crime is not limited to any particular gender, age, or rank.

Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims who choose to make a restricted or unrestricted report will have their choice honored. The Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (ISARC), SAPR Victim Advocates (SAPR VA), and counselors at the Community Counseling Center stand ready to provide assistance to victims of sexual assault. To report a sexual assault or speak with a victim advocate, call the MCB Camp Pendleton 24/7 Sexual Assault Support line at 760.500.1707 OR the DoD Safe Helpline at 877.995.5247.

Eliminating sexual assault will take a coordinated community effort, and I challenge everyone to accept responsibility for achieving this goal. Our Marines, Sailors, Civilian Marines and family members deserve nothing less.

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Date

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