



**Commanding Officer
Headquarters and Support Battalion
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
Policy Statement**



“Sexual assault is a crime, and Marines found guilty of committing sexual assault will be held accountable.”

– *General Berger, CMC*
Commandants Planning Guidance

Sexual assault is a criminal act that will not be tolerated and we will work with stakeholders to hold offenders accountable. This unthinkable crime erodes good order and discipline and unit cohesion, degrades unit morale, and contradicts our core values. Sexual assault is a crime that can happen to any person regardless of age, gender, or race and 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. If you or someone you know are a victim of sexual assault, contact the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPR) Victim Advocate (VA) to discuss resources and reporting options. There are two reporting options available to Service members and their adult military dependents: Restricted and Unrestricted Reporting. A **Restricted Report** does not trigger command notification or a law enforcement investigation. On the other hand, an **Unrestricted Report** does trigger command notification and a law enforcement investigation. Both reporting options provides a victim access to counseling, medical, Chaplain, Victim Legal Counsel (VLC), SARC, and SAPR VA support and services. Protecting victims of sexual assault from retaliation, ostracism, maltreatment, and reprisal is paramount and requires a holistic leadership approach.

Engaged leadership is the key to sexual assault prevention and response. Preventing sexual assault is the responsibility of every member within this battalion. Leaders at all levels are the center of gravity in establishing a healthy command climate that reduces, with the goal to eliminate, sexual assault. When leaders establish safe and respectful unit climates, sexual assaults are less likely to happen. Leaders will ensure all personnel receive annual SAPR training, become familiar with the SAPR Program, and Marine Corps Order 1752.5C. I expect Headquarters and Support Battalion personnel to emulate the highest standards of personal conduct, morality, and respect for each other, both on and off duty, while embracing and enforcing this policy. The Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC), SAPR Victim Advocates (both uniformed and civilian) and counselors at the Community Counseling Center stand ready to provide assistance to those who have been affected by sexual assault. For immediate support, call the Camp Pendleton 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line number at 760-500-1707 or contact the DoD Safe Helpline at 1-877-995-5247.

Eliminating sexual assault will take a coordinated community effort and I challenge everyone to accept responsibility for achieving this goal. I need your help to foster an environment where sexual assault is not tolerated and to keep our Spartan teammates safe, because no one should be a victim of a sexual assault.

Semper Fidelis,

Tracy A. Perry
Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Headquarters and Support Battalion