



**Commanding Officer  
Headquarters and Support Battalion  
Sexual Assault Prevention & Response**



*“Sexual assault is a crime that is completely incompatible with our core values of honor, courage, and commitment. Sexual assault goes against everything we claim to be as Marines. It is every Marine’s inherent duty to step up and step in to prevent sexual assault.”*  
- Marine Corps Order 1752.5B

Sexual assault is an unthinkable crime that victimizes irrespective of gender, race, or age; it represents the antithesis of all we are as Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines. Few threats pose greater risk to our combat readiness and mission effectiveness than attacks from within by a disgraceful few who have chosen to break faith and to prey upon their own. Proactive leadership by every member of the Battalion is required to defeat this unconscionable threat.

Sexual assault will not be tolerated and all incidents should be reported immediately. All sexual assault allegations will be thoroughly investigated and we will ensure victims of sexual assault receive the care and support they need. All members of the Battalion are responsible, and will be held fully accountable, for eliminating conditions that enable sexual assault. Every Marine, Sailor, and Civilian-Marine is charged with proactively and appropriately intervening when situations or behavior may potentially result or have resulted in a sexual assault.

Sexual assault victims are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized and wounded. Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect. Victims will promptly receive the treatment and support they require and deserve without having to make an official report. Sexual assault victims who report must feel confident in knowing their personal safety will be guarded and they will not be re-victimized during treatment and investigative actions. Whether a report is delayed or immediate, restricted or unrestricted, victims should understand that the Battalion is here to support them.

Leaders at all levels will take immediate action to read, understand, and comply with MCO 1752.5B. Section OICs and SNCOICs will ensure all personnel are briefed on the contents of the reference and receive annual refresher training from the Battalion’s Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA) or Sexual Assault Response Coordinator SARC. I expect all officers, SNCOs, and NCOs to embrace and enforce this policy. For immediate victim support, call the UVA duty phone at (760) 815-7593.

Semper Fidelis,

Philip G. Antekeier  
Colonel, United States Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer  
Headquarters and Support Battalion