



## COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

**"For we serve in a Corps with no institutional confusion about our purpose:  
To Fight! To Fight Well!"  
-General James Mattis**



Sexual assault is not consistent with our Corps values and will not be tolerated – it is destructive to our ability "To Fight... To Fight Well!". We will cultivate a respectful climate free from sexual assault. Ignoring or failing to report sexual assault incidents will have damaging consequences for the victim and our organization. Where cause exists, appropriate legal or administrative action will be taken against offenders.

**Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, threat of force, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.** Sexual assault is a crime and those found guilty of committing sexual assault will be held accountable.

Victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect. A victim can choose to make a restricted or unrestricted report. A restricted report allows a victim to receive SAPR services, medical, counseling, and legal services without law enforcement or leadership involvement. An unrestricted report allows for the same services offered for a restricted report, but a law enforcement investigation will take place, and you will receive the full support of your command. Please reach out to the SAPR program for further information on reporting options. Victims may receive advocacy, medical, legal, and counseling services. Victim identity will be released only to those who have a need to know (i.e., Unit Commander, NCIS). Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims who choose to make a restricted report in accordance with the reference will have their choice honored to the maximum extent possible. Victims who have the courage to report must feel confident that their personal safety will be protected.

Leaders at all levels will become familiar with the contents of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program Order (MCO 1752.5C) and associated reporting requirements, including expanded eligibility, ensure that all members of their command are briefed on its contents, and receive annual refresher training focused on prevention.

The SAPR Program is the agency responsible for providing assistance to victims of sexual assault, guidance to commanders, and assistance for the SAPR Program.

If you need assistance, call the MCAS 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line at 910-750-5852. The DoD Safe Helpline, 877-995-5247, is also available to assist victims of sexual assault.

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