

Policy Statement on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response



Sexual assault is a criminal act that is completely incompatible with our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Furthermore, incidents of sexual assault erode the fabric of our institution and destroy the trust and confidence vital for unit cohesion and mission accomplishment. Bottom-line: **Sexual Assault will not be tolerated within 5th ANGLICO.**

Sexual assault is defined as "*intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent.*" Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationships, or the age of the victim. Consent is defined as "*a freely given agreement to the conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent.*" An individual who is sleeping, unconscious, or incompetent cannot provide consent.

All victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect. Victims are urged to report so that proper support and treatment services can be provided. Care will be taken to ensure that their identity will only be released to those individuals who have a need-to-know. The SAPR program provides two options for a victim to report a sexual assault incident:

Restricted Report: Allows the victim to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and emotion/psychological counseling, and support services without notification of law enforcement or the command. A restricted report can be made to a Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA), Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), military Healthcare Provider (HCP), DoD Safe Helpline (877-995-5247), or Camp Butler Sexual Assault Helpline (098-970-HOPE [4673]). In a restricted report, the victim's identity remains confidential, and it is not forwarded to law enforcement or unit command authorities. A victim may change from a restricted to unrestricted report at any time.

Unrestricted Report: Allows a victim to receive all of the same support services of a restricted report, plus initiates an official investigation. An unrestricted report can be made to law enforcement authorities or the command, as well as to a UVA, SARC, HCP, DoD Safe Helpline, and the Sexual Assault Helpline. Although the victim's identity will not remain confidential, extreme care will be given to ensure that it is released only to those with an actual need-to-know (i.e. unit commander and investigating authorities).

It is the responsibility of every Marine and Sailor to take a stand and eliminate any behavior that undermines our core values, who we are, and what we stand for. Failure to report or ignoring sexual assault incidents has a destructive impact on the unit and organization. We must be willing to intervene and prevent such crimes from ever occurring within our Corps. Within 5th ANGLICO, our strength will always be our team and remaining loyal to one another.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. R. Ashton".

M. R. ASHTON
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
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