



III MEF INFORMATION GROUP COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT, PREVENTION, AND RESPONSE



Sexual assault is a crime that will not be tolerated. It destroys unit cohesion, combat readiness, and has life-long effects. I need your leadership and courage to protect our teammates and prevent this terrible offense from taking place within our ranks, our Corps, or anywhere else.

Every member of this command must understand that they have a role in preventing sexual assault and the conditions that enable it. Look out for one another and be prepared to take a stand should the need arise. If you see or are involved in what is or could become a dangerous situation, I expect you to say something or do something. Leadership and teamwork are powerful tools to prevent sexual assault. All of us, regardless of rank or position, will look out for one another. All of us will make smart decisions and will help recognize or avoid situations that could become dangerous or put people at risk.

Leaders at every level will understand and adhere to the content and intent of MCO 1752.5C, the Marine Corps Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program. I expect battalion commanders to appoint the appropriate number of personnel required to run an effective SAPR program. Ensure they are well-trained and fully committed to their responsibilities. As important as anything else, SAPR officials must be prepared to respond. Rehearse procedures and know what to do should action be required. If a sexual assault is reported, use the resources available through the SAPR Victim Advocates and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinators. If you need additional resources, ask for them.

The safety and care of the individual is paramount. Our SAPR program will respond to those who need help in a timely, professional manner. No one should ever be given cause to doubt the Corps' or this command's commitment to ensuring that those involved are treated with dignity, fairness, sensitivity, and respect while receiving the medical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual assistance they need. In the case of both restricted and unrestricted reporting, individuals will have their privacy honored to the fullest extent and in accordance with applicable directives when receiving the care they request or require.

All of us should be committed to every member of III MEF Information Group being able to live and work in an environment free from the worry or threat of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexist behavior. Our lives may depend on one another someday. ***Trust is key terrain.*** That our teammates have the confidence that we will do the right thing means everything.

For further assistance, contact the III MEF SARC at DSN: 315-622-4010, SARC Duty Cell 080-1385-7013, the 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line at 098-970-4673, or the DoD 24/7 Safe Helpline at (877) 995-5247.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Martin'.

Col R. M. Martin
Commanding Officer
III MEF Information Group