



III MEF Support Battalion Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on ***Sexual Assault Prevention and Response***



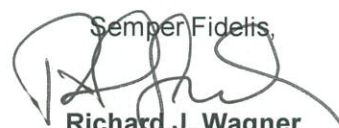
Every member of III MEF Support Battalion plays a vital role in our success. It is Marine Corps policy to provide a safe environment for all Marines, Sailors, civilian personnel, family members, and visitors. Sexual assault is criminal, disruptive behavior that causes fear for personal safety and will not be tolerated. Sexual assault erodes good order and discipline, degrades unit morale, and is directly counter to our Marine Corps core values. Sexual assault can occur to a person of any gender, race, or age 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 is a victim of sexual assault, contact the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program Victim Advocate (VA) to make a confidential report. They provide preliminary assessment, crisis intervention, safety planning, emotional support, information and referral, autonomous decision making, and accompaniment support services 24-hours a day, seven days a week that are gender-responsive, culturally competent, and recovery-oriented.

There are two reporting options available to Service members and their adult military dependents: Restricted and Unrestricted Reporting. A *Restricted Report* does not prompt command notification or an investigation. An *Unrestricted Report* prompts command notification and an investigation. Both reporting options provide a victim access to counseling, medical, chaplain support, Victim Legal Counsel (VLC), SARC, and SAPR VA support and services. To utilize the Restricted Reporting option, personnel must contact a SARC, SAPR VA, medical personnel, Chaplain, or VLC.

Leaders at all levels are responsible for establishing a healthy command climate that reduces, with the goal to eliminate, sexual assault. When leaders establish safe and respectful unit climates, sexual assault and other readiness impacting problems are less likely to happen. Engaged leadership is essential to the prevention and elimination of sexual assault.

Leaders will comply with the "Commander's 30-Day Checklist for all Unrestricted Reports of Sexual Assault," ensure 100 percent of command personnel receive annual SAPR training, become familiar with the SAPR Program and Marine Corps Order 1752.5C, and strive to eliminate sexual assault from our ranks. III MEF Support Battalion personnel will emulate the highest standards of personal conduct, morality, and respect for each other, both on and off duty. And remember, take care of each other and everything else will take care of itself.

Semper Fidelis,


Richard J. Wagner
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
III MEF Support Battalion