



III MEF Support Battalion Command Team's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Policy Statement



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 is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, threats, 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 report. SARCs and SAPR VAs provide preliminary assessment, crisis intervention, safety planning, emotional support, information and referral, autonomous decision making, and accompaniment support services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Service members and their dependents who are 18 years of age or older and have been sexually assaulted have two reporting options: **Restricted** and **Unrestricted**.

Restricted Reporting allows a person who was sexually assaulted to confidentially disclose the assault to specified individuals (i.e., SARC, SAPR VA, or healthcare personnel), receive medical treatment (including emergency treatment), counseling, and assignment of a SARC and SAPR VA. With a Restricted Report, there will not be an official investigation of the crime or additional protective measures. People who elect to file a Restricted Report can speak confidentially with a Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC), legal assistance attorney, or chaplain.

Unrestricted Reporting is a method for a person to report a sexual assault AND initiate an official investigation. A person can request additional protective and support measures like military no contact orders (NCO), protective orders (MPO), and request an Expedited Transfer (ETF).

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.

Remember to be proud of who you are, what you are capable of, and what you represent.

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Semper Fidelis,

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