SPMAGTF–CR–CC Commanding Officer's Statement on Sexual Assault

In combat when our fellow Marines need our help, we willingly accept extraordinary personal risk to come to their aid. Marines and Sailors carry out extraordinary feats of heroism in doing so. In fact these acts are the hallmark of who we are. We must work to ensure that this commitment extends to combatting sexual assault and the environment and behaviors that contribute to it.

Sexual assault – one Marine taking physical advantage of someone when that person does not or cannot consent – has become a stain on our proud history. We will do everything in our power within SPMAGTF-CR-CC to prevent sexual assault, support victims, and hold offenders and facilitators accountable. We will act in conjunction with the Commandant's goals to reduce sexual assault within our unit and ultimately, eliminate sexual assaults completely.

Any Marine or Sailor in this SPMAGTF who is the victim of sexual assault should immediately and directly contact one of our Uniformed Victim Advocates to receive confidential advice on reporting and support options. Everyone must know that restricted reporting procedures ensure the privacy of the victim while the command takes action to hold the alleged offender accountable. We will respect victim confidentiality.

Focusing on the prevention of sexual assaults, leaders in SPMAGTF-CR-CC will:

- Create a command climate free from messages and behavior that undermine the seriousness in which sexual assault is viewed by our Marines.
- Emphasize that sexual assault is a crime that is inconsistent with our core values and directly undermines readiness, unit cohesion, and morale.
- Foster a sense of responsibility to actively identify and intervene in situations where someone is in danger of being sexually assaulted.
- Ensure a clear understanding that those who facilitate sexual assault as inactive bystanders will be held accountable for their inaction.

For circumstances in which a sexual assault is alleged, commanders will respond in accordance with Marine Corps Order 1752.5B.

Eliminating sexual assault in the Marine Corps is a priority at all levels of the chain of command. We will accept nothing less than aggressive, proactive leadership to address this issue and achieve results.

K. R. Kassner
Colonel, USMC
Commanding Officer