



I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE SUPPORT BATTALION

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

Sexual assault contradicts who we are as an organization, as a team, and as a family. It destroys trust and is incompatible with our Core Values.

Sexual assault is a crime and 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. Sexual assault includes a broad category of sexual offenses consisting of the following specific UCMJ offenses: rape, sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, forcible sodomy (forced oral or anal sex), or attempts to commit these offenses.

Committing sexual assault is crime- perpetrator(s) will be punished. Every Marine and Sailor within the I MSB team will be aware of what constitutes sexual assault and the consequences for such inexcusable behavior. Failing to report or ignoring sexual assault incidents has exceptionally damaging consequences for the victim, the I MSB team, and our Corps.

Victim safety is paramount. If you are the victim of sexual assault, you are not to blame. I encourage you to report it, whether restricted or unrestricted, so that we can rally resources to help. As a victim, you have the right to be treated with fairness and respect for your dignity and privacy. You are empowered to make the choices on what support, assistance, and resources you need. The SAPR program is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Training and team building will reinforce our skills to safely intervene when witnessing high-risk behaviors that may result in a sexual assault. The use of alcohol is a prominent risk factor in sexual assault incidents, but alcohol will never be an excuse for unwanted sexual behavior. Remember, a *lack* of verbal or physical resistance does NOT constitute consent. Whether it is providing covering fire, preventing a teammate from being sexually assaulted, carrying a wounded buddy to safety, or keeping someone from senselessly ending their career as a convicted sex offender, Marines and Sailors take care of one another, on and off the battlefield, on and off duty.

Leaders at all levels will familiarize themselves with the Marine Corps Order 1752.5C on the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. We will dedicate ourselves to eradicating sexual assault within our ranks.


M. M. MELENDEZ

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, USMC

COMMANDING OFFICER, I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE SUPPORT BATTALION