



# I Marine Expeditionary Force Sexual Assault Prevention & Response



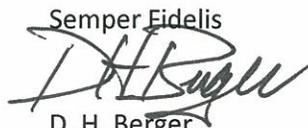
Sexual assault is a crime and will not be tolerated. As Marines, our Core Values- Honor, Courage, and Commitment- are the foundation for all that we stand for and guide how we conduct ourselves at all times. Sexual assault is directly counter to our values and serves to erode the good order and discipline that are the hallmarks of our Corps.

Every member of I MEF is responsible for creating an environment in which all Marines, Sailors and Civilian Marines are treated with honor and dignity at all times, in all settings. Statistics indicate that the majority of sexual assaults within our Corps do not involve outsiders. Rather, it is often times Marines attacking other Marines. Equally disturbing is the fact that bystanders - in many cases a fellow Marine or group of Marines - witnessed this life-changing crime and did nothing to prevent the assault.

Sexual assault prevention takes many forms, beginning with the continued education of all hands and the steadfast attention of commanders and leaders at every level. As importantly, Marines must demonstrate the moral courage to intervene when their instincts tell them that a situation is deteriorating and the potential for a sexual assault emerges. Far too often, alcohol is the common denominator that fuels that rise of such dangerous and potentially criminal situations. Alcohol is not an excuse for violating our clear standards of behavior, or for committing a crime.

All victims of sexual assault must have absolute confidence in our unwavering commitment to ensure that he or she is treated with dignity, sensitivity, and respect and that they receive the appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual assistance. Victims who choose to report an assault as an unrestricted report must have confidence that their identity will be released only to those with a need to know. Those victims who make a restricted report will have their privacy honored to the fullest extent possible while being provided the appropriate requested care.

Commanders will be familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5B, "Sexual Assault Prevention and Response" and ensure that all commands throughout I MEF are focusing their energies on preventing sexual assault through fundamental leadership. When sexual assaults occur, commanders must utilize the full resources available from Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA) and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) to our command chaplains and appropriate medical personnel - to respond to the needs of both military and civilian victims.

Semper Fidelis  
  
D. H. Berger  
Lieutenant General, USMC  
Commanding General  
I Marine Expeditionary Force