

**COMMANDING GENERAL**  
**I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**  
***Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Policy Statement***



**Sexual assault is a complete and total contradiction to who we are as Marines.**

Sexual assault is a crime and is not unique to any gender, race, or age. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force or abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault is totally unacceptable in our ranks, and breaks all the tenets of who we are and our Corps Values. We all have the duty to prevent sexual assault, and connect victims to the SARC or SAPR VA. Allegations of sexual assault must be thoroughly investigated to ensure the rights of all parties involved are upheld.

Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim is released only to those who have an official need-to-know, the unit commander, PMO, or NCIS. Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims who choose to make a Restricted Report will have that choice honored to the fullest extent. Victims are encouraged to report any sexual assault, and those that do must feel confident that their personal safety will be protected and that they will not be re-victimized. Marines and Sailors who have been sexually assaulted must be treated with sensitivity and care.

Alcohol consumption is frequently involved in sexual assault incidents. Just like drinking and driving, irresponsible consumption of alcohol can place a Marine or Sailor at increased risk. Look out for one another, do not allow a fellow Marine to be victimized due to intoxication. Execute some of the many techniques and actions learned in your training that will protect your safety, as well as that of the person you are trying to protect. If you see a situation developing that causes you concern or encounter an assault in progress—INTERVENE! Reporting sexual assault takes a great deal of courage, and I encourage you to do so if you are ever a victim of sexual assault.

Commanders and leaders in I MEF will fully understand the contents and adhere to the SAPR policy reference MCO 1752.5C. For further assistance, contact the I MEF SARC at (760) 829-0965, the MCB Camp Pendleton 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line at (760) 500-1707, or the DoD 24/7 Safe Helpline at (877) 995-5247.

We must rid our Corps of sexual assault, and support victims of this serious crime. This is commander and leader business at all levels -- it starts with establishing healthy command climates and adhering to the standards of conduct and respect for our fellow Marines and Sailors that are the hallmarks of our Corps.

*Semper Fidelis,*

  
G. W. SMITH, JR.

**Lieutenant General, U. S. Marine Corps**  
**Commanding General**  
***I Marine Expeditionary Force***