



# HEADQUARTERS GROUP SEXUAL ASSAULT AND PREVENTION RESPONSE POLICY STATEMENT



*Sexual assault is an attack by or against a fellow service member and can occur without regard to the gender, spousal relationship, or age of the victim. Sexual assault will not be tolerated in Headquarters Group, and every member, Marine and Civilian Marine is charged to be part of our proactive command climate to ensure this heinous act does not occur within our ranks.*

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, physical threat, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault is a criminal act that is not tolerated in Headquarters Group. Sexual assault within our command violates all three of our core values and destroys not only the good order and discipline of our command but, more importantly, it destroys the life of the victim.

Every member of Headquarters Group must act as an active bystander and identify and intervene when potentially high-risk situations arise, both on and off duty. Also, we must ensure that when engaging in sexual activity, there is consent from both parties. Consent entails words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct by a willing, competent person. The lack of verbal or physical resistance due to physical force, intimidation, threat, or coercion does not constitute consent. There is no consent when a person is unconscious, asleep, or incapacitated.

My SAPR program provides victims with advocates who will ensure all victims are treated with dignity and respect and assist in accessing comprehensive medical treatment, including emergency treatment and mental health services. Within Headquarters Group, we will treat all victims of sexual assault with dignity, without prejudice, and impartially to ensure all victims are treated in a manner that encourages reporting of sexual assault incidents without fear of retaliation, reprisal, ostracism, or maltreatment.

An incident of sexual assault may be reported via the following methods:

**Restricted Report:** This report is available to those who have not personally informed law enforcement or filed an unrestricted report. This report provides advocacy, medical treatment, and counseling services without command support or a law enforcement investigation. A restricted report can be made to the LOGCOM SARC, any SAPR VA, or through the 24/7 sexual assault support line: (229) 881-3883

**Unrestricted Report:** This report provides advocacy, medical treatment and counseling services, a law enforcement investigation, and command support, including the possibility of an expedited transfer and/or military protective orders. This report can be made to all listed above, along with law enforcement authorities, healthcare providers, or the chain of command.

All Headquarters Group members are mandated to report incidents of sexual assault that come under their observation, and I encourage anyone who is a victim to contact the LOGCOM SARC or a SAPR VA. Within Headquarters Group, we will treat victims with sensitivity, compassion, and respect and hold offenders accountable.

Semper Fidelis,

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Commanding Officer

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