



MARINE FORCE STORAGE COMMAND

Sexual Assault and Prevention Policy Statement

Sexual assault is a crime and such acts will not be tolerated. It is prejudicial to good order and discipline and directly counter to our core values. We must treat others whether a Marine or Civilian Marine with dignity and respect and act professionally at all times. Violating another person does not reflect the professionalism and core values we strive to maintain as service members defending the rights and freedom of our great country.

We are charged as Marines and Civilian Marines to eliminate sexual assaults within the Marine Corps and to provide compassionate support to the Marines and Civilian Marines who have been affected by sexual assault. We will treat all victims of sexual assault with sensitivity, decency, and respect; ensuring the victim is kept safe and receives the appropriate support. We must educate ourselves and our Marines and Civilian Marines on sexual assault, identify the misconceptions of sexual assault, and ensure the Marine Corps standards are clear when it comes to our personal behavior.

Unwanted sexual advances among familiar so-called "friends" must be eliminated. We must be sensitive to the safety, good order, and discipline of our Marines and Civilian Marines. Have the courage to identify, protect those who may have become vulnerable to sexual assault, and stop a potential bad situation where someone, regardless of gender, may become a victim. Leaders at all levels are the key for eliminating sexual assault. Be alert, sensitive, and assertive when you see the potential for bad behavior.

Excessive alcohol consumption may impair judgement and someone may not be legally or mentally capable to consent to sexual activity. Do not allow yourself to get to the point where you do not have full control of your actions. Be mindful of your surroundings and the actions of those around you so that you have the ability to step in or stop actions from happening. No means NO. Stop means STOP. Each Marine and Civilian Marine must be aware of one's actions at all times. Trying to get another person drunk to consent to sexual acts is a crime and the offenders will be held accountable for their actions and will face prosecution.

I expect our leadership to assist me in creating a command climate of trust where our Marines and Civilian Marines do not have the feeling of being victimized but where they will be taken care of and respected at all times. Ensure all of our personnel are fully trained on the prevention of sexual assault and the reporting process of sexual assault.

Each one of you has a duty to report a sexual assault incident immediately. Reporting of assaults will be done by Unrestricted or Restricted reporting. Reports will be submitted through our Uniformed Victim Advocate and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

ALWAYS-DO WHAT IS RIGHT, AT THE RIGHT TIME, FOR THE RIGHT REASON.

Semper Fidelis,

D. W. HARLOW
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, Marine Force Storage Command

