

6TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION RESPONSE (SAPR)

Sexual Assault is a crime that is neither tolerated in this command nor the Marine Corps. In simplest terms it is a betrayal of special trust and confidence and decency at the human level. Prevention is an inherent element of being leaders and being Marines.

Victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency, dignity, and respect. Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), and Chaplain are valuable resources and will provide confidentiality and help victims in the reporting process whether restricted (anonymous) or unrestricted (disclosure to the command). All victims will have full access to counseling and medical services.

The Department of Defense definition of sexual assault is very clear, describing sexual assault as **“the intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.”** All Marines, Sailors and Civilians must be willing to speak out against sexual assault in order to eliminate a crime that opposes everything that we stand for as Marines, Sailors, and Civilians.

Our greatest asset in combating sexual assault is to have decisive and engaged leadership at every level. It is every Marine's responsibility to take care of their fellow Marines; **you cannot be an innocent bystander when it comes to preventing sexual assault.** I charge every Marine to challenge and stop those who contribute to the climate where sexual assault can occur by using vulgar language, innuendo, and other types of inappropriate behavior— spoken or acted.

Sexual Assault is a complete and total contradiction of the core values that make us Marines. It is the direct opposite of always being faithful- as in **semper fidelis**. It affects the entire unit's work environment, friends, family members, and the special trust and confidence of our nation. Eliminating sexual assault requires a constant, dedicated effort by everyone in the 6th Marine Corps District. It is only through our combined efforts that we will create an environment free from sexual assault to stay true to our calling and the special trust placed on us.

If you or someone you know needs immediate assistance involving sexual assault, please call the 24 hour Sexual Assault Response Line at (843) 228-3599, or contact the 6th Marine Corps District UVA, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Felipe Aguilar, office - (843) 228-3162, or Sergeant Thiara Espinosasimons, office - (843) 228- 2144.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JCS'.

J. C. SMITHERMAN
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer