



COMMANDING GENERAL'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Sexual Assault is a crime that is not tolerated in the Marine Corps. Sexual assault is not restricted to any gender, race, or age, and tears apart the fabric of our core values of "Honor, Courage and Commitment," while causing irreparable harm to our lifeblood: our people.

The Department of Defense definition of sexual assault is very clear, describing sexual assault as "intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent." Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relations, or age of the victim. All service-members, civilians, and staff have an obligation to speak out against sexual assault in order to eliminate a crime that opposes everything that we stand for.

Sexual assault has a devastating effect on its victims. Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVAs), the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), and Chaplain are valuable resources for support, and will provide confidentiality and help victims in the reporting process (unrestricted or restricted). All victims will have full access to counseling and medical services, regardless of which reporting option they choose. Victims of sexual assault are urged to report the incident to ensure they receive the best possible care. Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency, dignity, and respect.

Sexual assault not only affects the victim, but it also affects the work environment, friends, and family members. Our greatest asset in combating sexual assault is decisive and engaged leadership at every level, and vigilance against behaviors that can lead to sexual assault. It is everyone's responsibility to look out for each other; we cannot be a bystander. In order to sustain a climate of dignity and mutual respect, everyone within MCIPAC-MCBB must challenge and stop those who use inappropriate language, vulgarity, innuendo, and any type of behavior- spoken or acted - that can contribute to a degraded climate in which bad things are more likely to happen.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Bowers".

WILLIAM J. BOWERS
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