



Commanding Officer's Sexual Assault Prevention Policy Letter



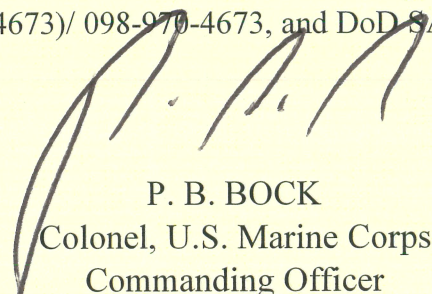
Sexual assault is a criminal act that differs from sexual harassment and falls outside the purview of equal opportunity. Sexual assault is "intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling of any bodily part perceived by the victim to as inappropriate) or attempts to commit these acts." Sexual assault may occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim.

"Consent shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, coercion, or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious."

There is zero tolerance for sexual assault. Sexual assault is a despicable act that has no place in any command, or any environment. Failure to report or ignore sexual assault incidents will have damaging consequences for the victim, and the command. Where cause exists, violators will receive appropriate legal or administrative action. We must, and will, treat victims with sensitivity, decency, and respect. This command will ensure that victims will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. To protect the victim, only those who have a need-to-know will know the victim's identity. The victim's safety and rights are always paramount. Victims who have the courage to report must feel confident with the command's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program; this command will not re-victimize the victim who has the courage to come forward. Marines and Sailors who experience sexual assaults often experience physical, mental, and emotional trauma. They deserve our trust and our support. We will treat them with care and sensitivity.

Leadership, education, training, awareness, and intervention are the keys to eliminating sexual assault. Every member of this Regiment who witnesses physical, sexual, or verbal assault will take appropriate action to stop the activity and to immediately report it to the chain of command.

Additional information and assistance are available through the command's Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), the Group's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) Mr. Jerry Laney 080-8368-4106, the Marine Corps Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (MCO 1752.5C), 24/7 SAPR Support Line 645-HOPE (4673)/ 098-970-4673, and DoD SAFE HELPLINE: 1-877-995-5247.


P. B. BOCK
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer