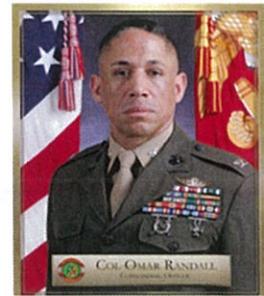




Commanding Officer's Sexual Assault Policy Statement



Sexual assault is a criminal act that differs from sexual harassment and falls outside the purview of equal opportunity. Sexual assault is defined 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 includes rape, forcible sodomy (forced oral or anal sex), aggravated or abusive sexual contact (unwanted inappropriate sexual contact or fondling of any bodily part perceived by the victim to be inappropriate), or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim.

"Consent - words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the accused's use of force, threat of force, or placing another in fear does not constitute consent."

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Failure to report or intervene in incidents leading to or involving sexual assault will have damaging consequences for both victims and their organizations. Where cause exists, appropriate legal or administrative action will be taken against violators. Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. Privacy of victims is of the utmost importance and the identity of a victim will be released only to those who have a need-to-know. Victim safety and rights are paramount at all times. Victims who have the courage to report must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and they will not be re-victimized by the organization. Marines and Sailors who are sexually assaulted are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized. They deserve to be treated with sensitivity and care.

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

Additional information and assistance is available through the command's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Victim Advocates, the Group's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), and the Marine Corps SAPR Program (MCO 1752.5C).



O. J. RANDALL

Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer