



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
MARINE DETACHMENT  
6th ARMOR CAVALRY ROAD, BUILDING 8545  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE  
FORT MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5540

1700  
CO  
19 Aug 20

POLICY LETTER 03-20

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Distribution List

Subj: SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR)

Ref: (a) MCO 1752.5C

1. Sexual assault is a heinous crime that can erode mental and physical health. This violation of trust is completely incompatible with our core values of honor, courage, and commitment. It is an affront to the basic American principles we defend. Every Marine must be aware of what constitutes sexual assault, the consequences of such behavior, and how to act appropriately when witnessing situations or behavior likely to result in sexual assault.

2. Sexual Assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault can occur regardless of gender, spousal relationship, or age. Consent shall not be assumed or construed based on the victim offering no physical resistance. Bottom line - consent is not given when force or coercion is used, when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or if the victim is unconscious.

3. At the Marine Detachment, we will eradicate unprofessional behavior that wrongly sets conditions that enable sexual assault; we will provide appropriate and sensitive care for victims; and we will maintain a SAPR program that reduces the negative effect sexual assault has on our Marines.

4. Victims of sexual assault will be treated with dignity, sensitivity, and without bias; those accused of committing sexual assault will be given due process, and held accountable if found guilty.

5. I am committed to fostering a professional command climate where every Marine feels welcomed and treated with respect. I and my Victim Advocates (VAs) are available 24/7 to provide guidance and assistance. Take care of yourselves, take care of your peers, and never hesitate to ask for help.

C. W. THOMAS

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