

Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is a crime that will not be permitted at this unit! It is not unique to any gender, race, or age. Sexual assault is defined as 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. Every member of CBIRF should become familiar with MCO 1752.5B, the reference containing guidance for identifying and reporting sexual assault.



Marines, when not designated as a UVA, are required to immediately report incidents of sexual assault which come under their observation to their command. Failure to report or ignoring sexual assault incidents will have damaging consequences for both victims and their organizations. Mandatory reporters include individuals in the chain-of-command, law enforcement personnel, and Department of Defense (DoD) employees. Where cause exists, the appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against violators.

Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, physiological, and social services. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim is released only to those who have a need-to-know (i.e. the unit commander or NCIS). Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims who choose to make a Restricted Report in accordance with the reference will have that choice honored to the fullest extent. 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.

Alcohol use is frequently cited in sexual assault incidents. Irresponsible consumption of alcohol places a Marine or Sailor at increased risk. It is imperative Marines and Sailors take care of each other and not allow a fellow Marine or Sailor to be victimized due to intoxication. Leaders at all levels will take immediate action to ensure all members receive their annual training and utilized the Marine Corps Community Services, Installation and CBIRF Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) and/or Uniformed Victim Advocates to assist the command in fulfilling SAPR training and assistance to the victims.

Sexual assault is a complete and total contradiction to the core values we all embrace. Eliminating sexual assault will take a dedicated community effort. I challenge each leader and individual to accept responsibility for achieving this goal. Our CBIRF family deserves nothing less than our complete dedication to this cause.

"Semper Fidelis!"

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. L. Carter', written over a white background.

M. L. CARTER
Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer