

26th Marine Expeditionary Unit Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program



We are professionals serving in an elite organization who treat people with dignity and respect... Sexual assault is an intolerable crime.

POLICY LETTER 06-20

From: Commanding Officer

To: 26th MEU Personnel

Subj: COMMANDING OFFICER'S SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR) POLICY

- ☛ Sexual assault is an intolerable crime...period. Sexual assault erodes unit cohesion, is prejudicial to good order and combat readiness, and contradicts our Marine Corps core values. Simply stated, it is a criminal act that goes against everything we claim to be as Marines or Sailors and it is a violation of the American principles we are sworn to defend. This criminal act is not limited to a specific gender, age, or race – it can happen to anyone. Sexual assault is defined as the intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, or the abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Further, consent must be given freely and cannot be given by someone who is asleep, unconscious, or incapacitated.
- ☛ The 26th MEU SAPR program is governed by MCO 1752.5C and NAVMC 1752.5. Although we will conduct formal SAPR training semi-annually, all leaders assigned to the 26th MEU are directed to use the governing documents and White Letter 2-12 to aid in their regular small group discussions. Our goal is to eliminate the occurrence of sexual assaults by strengthening a culture of prevention through risk reduction, education and training, response capability, victim support, clear reporting procedures, and offender accountability.
- ☛ We take care of our own. Every allegation of sexual assault will be taken seriously. Should one of our own in the 26th MEU become a victim of sexual assault, they are encouraged to seek safety, preserve all evidence, and contact a SARC/SAPR VA or the DOD Safe Helpline immediately. Leaders within the 26th MEU chain of command, to include SAPR VAs, Chaplains, Medical Providers, and NCIS are all postured to provide support and assistance 24/7. Victims will be treated with dignity, decency, sensitivity, and respect – a victim's safety is paramount and we will ensure they are not re-victimized. Should you be the perpetrator of this crime, you will be referred to the NCIS Sexual Assault Division and you will be held accountable under the UCMJ to include being entered into the national criminal database that follows you beyond your time in the Marine Corps.
- ☛ There are two methods of reporting a sexual assault: Unrestricted and Restricted. We encourage everyone to consider making an Unrestricted Report to enable the command an opportunity to hold the perpetrator accountable and to achieve the full objectives of our SAPR program. However, we respect the right of an individual to determine their reporting preference. We remain resolute in ensuring the appropriate support and services are readily available for anyone desiring the confidentiality afforded by a Restricted Report.
- ☛ We are professionals within an elite organization who treat people with dignity and respect. Every Marine and Sailor must speak out against sexual assault and intervene if they see someone being targeted – an active bystander with a bias for action is our first line of defense. We must ruthlessly safeguard the reputation of our Team by ensuring every member of the 26th MEU upholds the highest standards of professionalism and conduct, particularly if alcohol is being consumed or when fatigue is present.
- ☛ The DOD Safe Helpline is available at: 1-877-995-5247 or www.safehelpline.org and the Camp Lejeune Sexual Assault 24/7 Helpline is available at: 910-750-5852.

Semper Fidelis!

Colonel D.W. Sampson, USMC
Commanding Officer, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

