



COMMANDING GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE POLICY STATEMENT

Sexual assault is a crime that 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. MCO 1752.5B is a newly revised Marine Corps Order containing guidance for identifying, reporting, and addressing the issue of sexual assault.

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Bystanders failing to report or ignoring potential sexual assault incidents is equally unacceptable. Where cause exists, appropriate legal action will be taken against violators.

Victim safety is paramount, and first and foremost at all times. Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. The identity of a victim will only be released to those who have a need-to-know (i.e., the unit commander, PMO, or NCIS). Victims who choose to make a restricted report 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 at increased risk. It is imperative Marines take care of each other and not allow fellow Marines to be victimized due to intoxication. Make yourselves a hard target for a would-be predator. Consume alcohol responsibly and maintain control of your faculties.

Leaders at all levels must be familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5B. Commanders will ensure all members of their command are briefed on its contents and receive annual refresher training. Marine Corps Community Services (Marine and Family Programs), as well as the Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and/or Uniformed Victim Advocate, are here to assist you.

Additionally, "The Commander's Protocol for Responding to Allegations of Sexual Assault," found in Appendix C of MCO 1752.5B, is the standard operating procedure for responding to allegations of sexual assault. Learn it and rehearse it, so you can be ready to act responsively when a report is made.

Sexual assault is a complete and total contradiction of the core values we all embrace. Eliminating sexual assault will take dedicated leadership commitment and community effort. Our Marine family deserves nothing less than our complete dedication to this cause. Join me in eliminating this scourge from our ranks!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. F. Castellvi".

R. F. CASTELLVI

Brigadier General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding General

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