



2D COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION
COMMANDING OFFICER'S
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION
AND RESPONSE POLICY STATEMENT



Sexual assault is a heinous crime that is prejudicial to good order and discipline. Perpetrators of this crime steal humanity and dignity from their victims, they leave long lasting mental and physical scars on our Marines and Sailors, and they have a corrosive effect on our combat effectiveness. Sexual Assault will not be tolerated in 2d Combat Engineer Battalion.

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 without regard to gender, spousal relationship, or age. Just because a victim did not resist does NOT mean the victim provided consent. Additionally, consent cannot be given when a person uses force or coercion, or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious.

When a sexual assault allegation is substantiated after a thorough investigation, appropriate legal or administrative action will be taken against violators. Victims will receive appropriate medical, emotional, and psychological treatment and assistance from social services; additionally, they will be kept informed as the investigation takes place. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim is released only to those who have a need-to-know. Victim safety and rights are paramount at all times. Those who report sexual assault incidents must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and they will not be re-victimized by the organization. Options for reporting are:

- **Restricted Report.** A Restricted report allows the victim to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and emotional/psychological counseling support services **without notification of law enforcement or the command.** In a Restricted Report the victim's identity remains confidential, and it is not forwarded to law enforcement or the command. **An alleged perpetrator cannot be investigated or prosecuted based solely off a restricted report.**
- **Unrestricted Report.** An Unrestricted Report allows a victim to receive **ALL** of the same support services as a restricted report. Additionally, with an unrestricted report, an official investigation will be conducted. An Unrestricted Report can be made to law enforcement authorities or the command, as well as to the SARC/UVA. Although the victim's identity will not remain confidential, care will be given to ensure the information is released only to those with a need-to-know.

A Restricted and Unrestricted reports can be made to the Command Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and/or Uniform Victim Advocate (UVA); the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line at (910) 750-5852; or the DoD Safe Helpline at 1-877-995-5247

I expect all Marines and Sailors in 2d Combat Engineer Battalion to stand up against sexual violence and to intervene to protect victims. It is only after each individual makes a personal commitment to take an active role against sexual assault and sexual violence that we can succeed in creating a zero-tolerance environment for this horrendous crime. For additional information contact the Battalion UVA.

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