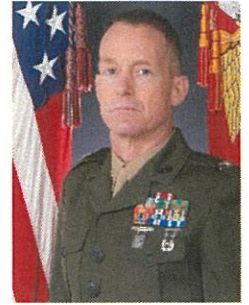




Colonel Joseph E. Galvin
Commanding Officer
Headquarters and Support Battalion
Marine Corps Installations-East
Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune



POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Sexual assault is intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threat, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim cannot, or does not, consent. Consent cannot be given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious. Consent is a freely given agreement to the conduct at issue by a competent person. Consent shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical or verbal resistance.

Sexual assault is prejudicial to good order and discipline and a crime that not only violates the individual, but also damages the entire command and our ability to complete our mission. This crime is not restricted by gender, sexual orientation, age, or rank.

H&S Bn Marines, Sailors, and Civilians. You are all leaders - I am counting on you to speak out against sexual violence and to intervene when necessary. You must stay engaged with your Marines. Discuss what constitutes sexual assault and understand how to stop this crime. Make it clear that sexual assault is not tolerated and incompatible with service in our Marine Corps.

Furthermore, understand your roles and responsibilities if a sexual assault is reported. You have an obligation to take allegations seriously. Make sure Marines understand victims' rights and reporting options. Treat victims with care and protect them from re-victimization. Provide them with appropriate resources and take appropriate administrative and legal action with perpetrators.

Only by our united efforts will we succeed in creating a zero-tolerance environment and end sexual violence.

Victims. Victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect. Know that no one deserves to be sexually assaulted. You have the right to make a **Restricted Report** to a Uniformed or Civilian Sexual Assault and Prevention (SAPR) Victim Advocate (VA), designated healthcare professional, Victim Legal Counsel (VLC), Chaplain, or a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). These professionals will protect your confidentiality and assist you with any medical, emotional, physiological, or social medical care you may need. You can always make an **Unrestricted Report** to those above, law enforcement agents, or the Command at any time in order to initiate an investigation. Although the victim's identity will not remain confidential, care will be given to ensure that it is released only to those with an actual need-to-know.

Anyone who has experienced a sexual assault can call the Lejeune-New River 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line (910-750-5852) or DoD Safe Helpline (877-995-5247) to speak confidentially to a victim advocate.

Bottom Line. Sexual assault undermines the very principles that guide us in our mission. We must stop sexual assault before it happens. However, if it does, we must take decisive action to care for the victims. Perpetrators may be subject to the full weight of the administrative and legal consequences. We will not tolerate this destructive act in H&S Battalion.

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