



COMMANDING OFFICER'S SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION POLICY



Sexual Assault will not be tolerated in VMM-265.

Sexual assault is a criminal act of aggression and violence involving a non-consensual sexual act used to gain power and control over a victim. It is prejudicial to good order and discipline and tears at the very fabric of our Corps. Sexual assault can happen to anyone, regardless of age, rank, or gender. Excessive alcohol consumption is often a contributing factor to sexual assault.

I am committed to the total eradication of sexual assault within the US Marine Corps. All allegations of sexual assault will be fully investigated. Substantiated incidents will be handled in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice. I charge each and every one of you to look out for your brothers and sisters by preventing sexual assault. If you see it happening, stop it. If you hear about it after the fact, report it immediately to your chain of command. Failure to act to prevent a known sexual assault is cowardice completely contrary to our warrior ethos. Reprisal in any form against a victim or witness who reports sexual assault will be dealt with swiftly and severely.

If you feel you have been the victim of sexual assault or sexual harassment, please report it immediately. Unrestricted reporting through your chain of command allows the offender to be punished and the cancer to be cut out of our Corps. That may not be what's best for each victim, so Unit Victim Advocates, medical personnel, and chaplains can provide restricted reporting, providing access to the care you need while maintaining privacy and confidentiality.

Even one sexual assault in our Corps is too many. Do your part, treat your fellow Marines as brothers and sisters or sons and daughters and together we can stop sexual assault.

B. G. SWENSON
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Commanding Officer, VMM-265