



Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 Marine Aircraft Group 36

COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE



Sexual assault is first and foremost a crime and is not tolerated in the Marine Corps. Sexual assault is defined as *intentional sexual contact when the victim does not or cannot consent, and is characterized by the use of force, threat of force, or abuse of authority*. The criminal act of sexual assault is on every level a violation of Marine Corps values and impedes the ability of the Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 172 Firebirds to complete their mission. As such, all reports of sexual assault will receive a timely and professional response.

Leaders within MWSS-172 provide the foundation for prevention and response to sexual assault by actively educating their subordinates and creating an environment founded on dignity and respect. All Marines and Sailors must understand the differing processes between restricted and unrestricted reporting. Any Marine or Sailor who is witness to, or has information related to, a sexual assault shall support the victim appropriately. Ignoring sexual assault incidents may have damaging consequences for victims. Allowing the perpetrator to commit further acts destroys subordinates trust in leadership.

Survivors of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, privacy, decency, and respect. Survivors can and are encouraged to report sexual assault by restricted or unrestricted means. A survivor's safety, appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social service assistance are of the utmost importance. Survivors who choose a restricted process in accordance with the reference will have that choice fully honored. Survivors can be confident that they will be treated fairly, with dignity, respect, and with personal safety and privacy at the forefront.

There is no discrimination when it comes to sexual assault. We must be proactive in understanding common factors associated with sexual assault to help prevent it within our institution and unit. Alcohol use is frequently cited in sexual assault incidents. Marines and Sailors between the ages of 18 and 24 are often the victims or the perpetrators. Furthermore, personnel who are new to a unit, especially those reporting to their first unit, are statistically at greater risk of being victims. These indicators are a harsh reality, yet they have been shown to be true across the Marine Corps. These are the indicators that are the focus of discussions across the unit to mitigate these risks and take care of our Marines and Sailors.

As a family, MWSS-172 must educate to prevent sexual assault. Our Marines and Sailors must look after each other, it is unacceptable to allow sexual assault to occur and our Firebirds must never turn a blind eye to those in need of help. While the accused is ultimately responsible for his or her individual actions, it is our job as Marines and Sailors to do our best to prevent sexual assault from ever happening.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. T. Moyer".

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A. T. Moyer

Lieutenant Colonel, USMC

Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 172