

## MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP 18

1st Marine Aircraft Wing

### Sexual Assault Policy

“A Matter of Trust & Readiness”



Sexual assault is a crime – defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. The term includes a broad category of sexual offenses consisting of the following specific UCMJ offenses: rape, sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, the former offense of forcible sodomy, or attempts to commit these acts. However, to frame this solely as a legal issue diminishes the profound damage it inflicts on our unit’s **combat readiness** and the **trust** vital to our mission.

As Marines, we are bound by our core values of honor, courage, and commitment, forming the bedrock of our Warrior Ethos. Our Moral Compass – Prudence, Courage, Temperance, and Justice – defines our excellence and safeguards the moral qualities of our Nation. Sexual assault is a direct betrayal of these values, eroding the cohesion and discipline essential for success in any operational environment.

The impact extends beyond the individual victim. Sexual assault fractures the bonds of trust within our units, hindering our ability to operate as a cohesive, effective team. It also damages our relationships with the host-nation population, undermining our ability to build the partnerships crucial for stability and mission accomplishment. A compromised reputation due to such acts jeopardizes our legitimacy and effectiveness abroad.

Let me be clear: **I will not tolerate this crime, nor the attitudes and behaviors that enable it.**

Preventing sexual assault is not just a directive – it is a leadership imperative. Every Marine, Sailor, and Civilian has a responsibility to foster a climate of decency and respect and prevent sexual assault. Everyone must actively contribute to a culture of respect, vigilance, and accountability, ensuring that prevention is embedded in our daily actions. Victims deserve our unwavering support and compassionate care. Those who choose to make a restricted report will have their privacy, safety, and dignity fully protected. Those who choose an unrestricted report can be assured a thorough investigation utilizing all available resources. Re-victimization through inadequate handling of a report will not be tolerated.

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault, please notify a Sexual Assault Responses Coordinator (SARC) and/or a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Victim Advocate (VA). They are dedicated to ensuring access to the support and care deserved.

Maintaining our readiness and earning the trust of those we serve depends on all of us upholding the highest standards of conduct. This is not merely a policy; it is a fundamental requirement for mission success and the preservation of our honor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.M. Sanders'.

**Colonel Justin M. Sanders**  
**Commanding Officer**

**Marine Air Control Group 18**

*History.*

*Destiny.*