



Commanding Officer
Marine Wing Support Squadron 373
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program



As the Marine Corps Order states, **“sexual assault is a crime that is completely incompatible with our core values of honor, courage, and commitment. It is an affront to the basic American principles we so bravely defend. Sexual assault goes against everything we claim to be as Marines”**. It is our responsibility to treat all Marines or Sailors who are a victim of sexual assault fairly, with dignity, sensitivity, and without prejudice. This will allow the victim to determine their individual needs as it relates to an alleged incident. We need the entire team to stamp-out sexual assault and foster a climate that supports victims, holds others accountable, and is aware of situations that may be cause for concern. I direct that all Marines and Sailors within this Squadron to be actively involved and do not let a questionable situation pass right in front of you – we need Marines and Sailors who have a bias for action.

The Squadron will do the following; **foster a climate that deters beliefs and values that contribute to the behaviors which facilitate sexual assault, establish and uphold standards for personal behavior, hold offenders accountable, provide education and training for all members within the command, encourage victims to report any offenses, grow as professionals and get it right the first time when handling victims that are physically, mentally, and emotionally affected, and maintain a current policy which includes resources and advocates that can assist victims throughout the process.**

Furthermore, we will maintain the strictest adherence to confidentiality as it relates to an individual’s case. Whether a victim decides to report an incident via a **restricted** or **unrestricted** report, the command and those trusted to support the victim, will ensure they create an environment where the victim is empowered to determine their own resource and support needs.

The Squadron has resources available to those that become victims of predators that slip into our ranks. These resources include a fellow Marine or Sailor, chain-of-command, Chaplain, Uniform Victim Advocate, 24/7 SAPR Helpline and Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). It is our pledge to make sure Marines and Sailors are aware of the various representatives and reporting procedures. We also pledge to handle each case professionally and maintain this sensitive matter with the utmost privacy. Leaders are especially important and are key to the program and to help maintain accountability from within the ranks.

A victim should not be required to go it alone, the entire team is here for support. **Leaders at all levels will ensure that day-to-day actions, comments, office banter, and/or personal beliefs do not interfere with or run counter to the expectations within this policy or the Marine Corps Order.** It is up to the entire team to understand that this is reoccurring problem in both the military and in society. We all must do our part to keep it out of our unit and the Marine Corps.

In closing, sexual assault is not tolerated, is a crime, and all allegations will be taken seriously. There is no room in our Marine Corps or U.S. Navy for predatory individuals, together we can eradicate this.


Steven B. Dodson