



## Marine Air Control Group 38 Commander's Sexual Assault Response Statement



Sexual assault is a crime that is fundamentally incompatible with our core values, and it violates everything we stand for as Marines and Sailors. I have zero tolerance for sexual assault or sexual harassment in any form.

At the heart of our warfighting philosophy is **trust**—the bedrock of our effectiveness in combat and in garrison. As MCDP 1 makes clear, trust is not a luxury; it is a necessity. We fight as a team, and that team is built on confidence in one another's character, judgment, and professionalism.

**Sexual assault and harassment represent a profound breach of trust.** If Marines cannot trust each other in the most basic of interpersonal interactions, they cannot trust each other with their lives in the crucible of combat. Violating that trust erodes unit cohesion, corrodes morale, and directly undermines combat readiness.

We must foster a culture where respect, dignity, and accountability are non-negotiable. Every Marine and Sailor has a responsibility to protect that trust—to live up to it, to defend it, and to never betray it. Our strength lies not just in our weapons and tactics, but in the unwavering bond between us. That bond must be earned, protected, and never broken.

Victims must know that their safety and privacy will be protected. Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates (SAPR VA) and Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) are **ALWAYS** available to assist. Victims have two reporting options:

1. A **restricted report** allows victims to confidentially disclose the assault to specified individuals (i.e., SARC, SAPR VA, or healthcare personnel), receive medical treatment, counseling, and assignment of a SARC and SAPR VA. A restricted report will not have an official investigation of the crime, additional protective measures like military protective orders (MPOs), or requests for an Expedited Transfer (ET). A restricted report can become an unrestricted report.

2. An **unrestricted report** also affords a victim the ability to receive medical, informational, legal, advocacy, and emotional/psychological counseling support services; however, an official investigation will be initiated. An unrestricted report can be made to law enforcement authorities or the command, as well as to the SAPR VA, SARC, HCP, Chaplain, DoD Safe Helpline, and sexual assault helplines. Although the victim's identity will not remain confidential, care will be given to ensure that information is released only to those with an actual need-to-know, such as the unit commander and the investigating authorities.

Only SARCs and SAPR VAs are authorized to take an unrestricted and restricted report. HCP at MTF and Chaplains may receive disclosures of sexual assault but are not authorized to take reports. A victim can file a restricted report **EVEN** if the allegation has been inadvertently or previously disclosed to the command or personnel in the chain of command by the victim, a suspect, or a third party, the matter has been reported to law enforcement by anyone other than the victim, and/or if an investigation has been initiated. These updates are referred to as "expanded eligibility to file restricted reports" and all members of MACG-38 are instructed to remain abreast of this and any future policy updates which will be disseminated by our Command SARC.

Leadership is the key to sexual assault prevention, response, and appropriate offender accountability. We will continuously educate our Marines and Sailors on how to prevent incidents of sexual assault, while encouraging victims to report these incidents when they occur. Survivors of sexual assault shall be protected from coercion, retaliation, and reprisal in accordance with DoDI 6495.02. Retaliation can unjustly harm the lives and careers of survivors, bystanders, and responders. Retaliation has no place in MACG-38 and every member of this command must do their part to ensure an ethical and just command intolerant of such behavior. As the Sexual Assault Initial Disposition Authority (SA-I DA), I will take all allegations seriously.

It is important to note that in the state of California, the following individuals are **MANDATORY** reporters: healthcare workers at any off base medical facility and law enforcement.

Semper Fidelis,

F.J. O'Connell  
Colonel, USMC  
Commanding Officer

Important phone numbers that I require all members of MACG-38 to have saved and accessible:  
MCAS Miramar 24/7 SAPR Support Line: 858-864-2815      Twentynine Palms 24/7 SAPR Support Line: 760-799-0273 MCAS  
Yuma 24/7 SAPR Support Line: 928-941-3601      Camp Pendleton 24/7 SAPR Support Line: 760-500-1707  
MACG-38 duty phone number: 858-307-9605



## Marine Air Control Group 38 Commander's Safety and Force Preservation Policy



15 Aug 2025

Marines and Sailors are our most precious and valuable resource. In peacetime, no piece of equipment, no training event, and no exercise outweighs the worth of a human life. This policy is grounded in Marine Corps Orders and directives, including MCO 5100.29C - Marine Corps Safety Management System (MCSMS), and reflects our enduring obligation to safeguard the lives of Marines and Sailors while ensuring readiness for combat.

### Guiding Principles

- a. **Trust** – Trust is the foundation of our Corps. Our Nation entrusts us with its defense; Marines must trust their leaders to set conditions for safe, effective training; and leaders must trust their Marines to exercise sound judgment in executing tasks. Violations of that trust—whether through neglect of safety standards or failure to care for one another—undermine our warfighting ethos.
- b. **Commitment** – Commitment binds us to one another and to mission accomplishment. Commitment to safety is not a separate function; it is integral to how we train, fight, and preserve combat power. Every Marine has a role in the Safety Management System, from commanders tailoring safety programs to their mission to individual Marines employing proper procedures and protective equipment.
- c. **Risk Management** – Risk is inherent in military operations and training. MCO 5100.29C establishes risk management as a commander's tool to balance mission accomplishment with force preservation. Risk cannot be eliminated, but it must be identified, assessed, and controlled at the proper level of command.

### Policy

- All subordinate commands will execute the MCSMS. Commanders at every echelon are responsible for tailoring safety programs to their unique mission requirements while upholding service-wide standards.
- Leaders will establish and maintain safety councils or equivalent forums to ensure hazards are identified, risks mitigated, and lessons shared.
- Safety Officers and safety personnel will receive proper training and maintain required documentation. Commanders will ensure their Marines are equipped, trained, and empowered to implement risk management in every evolution.
- Marines at every level are responsible for following SOPs, using and inspecting PPE, and reporting unsafe conditions or near misses without fear of reprisal. This honest feedback is part of the trust we owe one another.

Our unit's strength lies in mutual trust and unbreakable commitment to each other. This includes a solemn obligation to preserve the force in peacetime so that we are ready and able to answer the Nation's call in war. I expect leaders to set the example, Marines to hold one another accountable, and every member of this formation to see safety not as a restraint but as a combat multiplier. We will manage risk, protect one another, and remain ready for the demands of combat.

Semper Fidelis,

E.J. O'Connell  
Colonel, USMC  
Commanding Officer