



Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron Two

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR) PROGRAM POLICY LETTER



The Mission of MWHS-2 in my words is to provide administrative, training, supply, logistical, unit and family readiness support to **ALL** 2d MAW HQ personnel in order to free the Commanding General and his staff to fight the MAW in support of the MEF and other supported units and commanders.

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force or abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault is counter to everything we hold dear as service members, citizens, and decent human beings. Not only does sexual assault have life-changing and unalterable effects on the victims involved, it also has lasting negative effects on the victims' families, friends, and command. When a Marine or Sailor is taken out of the fight due to sexual assault it can be directly interpreted the same as receiving a casualty on the battlefield. Furthermore, the lasting effects on the command in regards to morale, effectiveness, and readiness is completely unacceptable.

Our SAPR program will focus on three main tenants: Prevention, Immediate Response, and Long Term Care

Prevention: MWHS-2 will foster a command climate that encourages open dialogue, education and understanding, mutual respect, communal responsibility, vigilance, and trust. To reiterate a portion of my command philosophy – **Be a good Marine / Sailor / Civilian**. We will reduce and or eliminate inappropriate behavior that may escalate to sexual assault. We are a family; therefore, we will look out for each other as a family. When we see something progressing in the wrong direction, we will intervene either actively or passively to ensure a bad situation does not become worse. Our education on this topic will be open and frequent. This is not an “awkward” topic. It must be discussed candidly at all levels of the command.

Immediate Response: All members of the command will be trained on current SAPR policies, directives, and reporting requirements. Our command's immediate responses will focus on providing appropriate and sensitive care for victims, ensuring due process for the accused, and reducing the overall negative effect a specific incident has on our command and our overall readiness.

Long Term Care: A working knowledge of the resources available is required as a leader. In the unfortunate event we experience a sexual assault in the unit, I fully expect you will assist your fellow Marine and utilize these resources. In the short term, our civilian counterparts are well equipped to immediately assist the service member as they begin their road to recovery. Once initial actions are complete, it will take a concerted, team effort ensuring the victim is not left behind and receives the long term care necessary. We are a family, and families take care of one another.

Duty Chaplain (252) 229-7248

2d MAW SARC (252) 466-3549 / (252) 876-6352

Victim Legal Counsel (252) 466-5649 / (252) 250-4026

MCAS Cherry Point 24/7 Sexual Assault Helpline (252) 665-4713

DoD Safe Helpline 1 (877) 995-5247

Always Faithful,

A.J. Cesaro

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Commanding Officer, MWHS-2