



MARINE WING COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON-28 COMMANDER'S SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE STATEMENT



Sexual assault is not only prejudicial to good order and discipline, it is a serious crime that deteriorates the physical and mental health of those who make up our Corps. It is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, abuse of authority, or when the survivor does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault can occur regardless of gender, spousal relationship, or age. Consent shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the part of the survivor to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, coercion, or when the survivor is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious.

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Appropriate legal and administrative action will be taken against violators. Survivors will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect and will receive appropriate treatment with assistance from available supportive services.

The two types of reports (restricted and unrestricted) can be made via the following methods:

1. **Restricted Report** allows the survivor to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and counseling support services without notification of law enforcement or the command. A Victim Advocate (VA), Healthcare Provider (HCP), the MCAS Cherry Point Sexual Assault Support Line (252-665-4713), the DoD Safe Helpline 24/7 (877-995-5247), or a local installation Support Line. A Chaplain is also a source for confidential support with a Restricted Report, the survivor's identity remains confidential and information is not reported to law enforcement or command.

2. **Unrestricted Report** also allows a survivor to receive medical, informational, advocacy, and counseling services. In addition, an official investigation into the crime is opened. An Unrestricted Report can be made to law enforcement authorities or the command, as well as to a SARC, SAPR VA, HCP, DoD Safe Helpline, and MCAS Cherry Point 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line (listed above), or a local Installation Support Line (listed above), or the installation support line. *Although the survivor's identity will not remain confidential, care will be given to ensure that information is released only to those with a need-to-know (e.g. unit commander and investigating authorities).* We all have a role to play in preventing and treating this.

Semper Fidelis,

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