



COMMANDING OFFICER'S SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION POLICY



I expect Thunder Chickens to be professionals in all our activities, support the team, and work towards mission accomplishment. **It is a selfish and heinous crime, incompatible with Marine Corps core values, and not limited to any gender, race or age.** Alcohol is not an excuse and is often an accelerant, impairing judgement, and inhibition. It is imperative we identify and root out any culture, climate or activities that encourage negatively reinforcing behaviors. To ensure we all understand the gravity of the act, it is defined as..

Sexual assault: is intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat, or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

The Marine Corps Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) order (MCO 1752.C) provides guidance for reporting, procedures, and policy. I want to highlight portions I feel are the key pillars of the order that I expect all Thunder Chicken professionals to adhere to. Those pillars are **Prevention** and **Support**.

- **Prevention:** The most effective way to protect the team is to prevent an act before it occurs through observation and proactive leadership.
 - Active leadership requires no rank and I expect all thunder Chickens to protect each other.
 - We will cultivate a respectful climate to reinforce a team mentality.
 - Be an **Active Bystander** in developing situations.
 - Help those who may be targeted for a sexual assault.
 - Identify and intervene when potentially high-risk situations arise.
 - Intervene by **assessing safety, engaging others, and checking-in** with the potential victim.
- **Support:** If a victim is identified, we will treat our teammate with sensitivity, decency, and respect.
 - Confidentiality and privacy will be maintained and respected by everyone in the squadron.
 - We will avoid questioning to protect the victim and integrity of the investigation.
 - All medical, emotional, psychological, and social service resources will be made available.
 - The victim will be directed to the **SAPR Victim Advocate** and **Sexual Assault Response Coordinator**.
 - **Reprisal, retaliation, ostracism, and maltreatment of the victim will not be tolerated.**

VMM-263 has multiple appointed SAPR Victim Advocates whose photos and point of contact information are prominently displayed within the squadron's workspaces of VMM-263. If you believe you have or may have been sexually assaulted, you should immediately contact one of these SAPR VAs for assistance and support.

If you are a victim of sexual assault, in a position where you don't know what to do, or how to handle the situation at hand, please contact the MCAS New River Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Hotline or the Confidential DOD Safe Helpline, available 24 hours a day/7 days a week:

MCAS New River Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Hotline: (910) 750-5852

Confidential DOD Safe Helpline PHONE: (877) 995-5247 or (202) 540-5962

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