



## HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON



### COMMANDING OFFICER'S SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

**Sexual assault is a serious and criminal act that will not be tolerated in this command.** Every Marine, Sailor, and civilian in this squadron has the right to be treated with dignity and respect. Those that choose to conduct themselves in a manner inconsistent with the ethos of our Corps by committing this heinous crime will be held accountable for their actions.

As Marines, we respect each other's dignity and treat each other with respect. We are a unit that knows the right path to take on-duty and off. Any attack on the dignity of another Marine will not be tolerated in this command. Any attack or assault of a sexual nature will be investigated as a criminal act. Leaders at all levels are charged to become familiar with the contents of Marine Corps Order 1752.5A, Sexual Assault Prevention & Response (SAPR) Program and ensure that their Marines and Sailors understand the seriousness of this crime.

Sexual assault is a crime. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat of force, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship or age of victim.

"Consent" shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious.

Alcohol use is frequently cited with sexual assault incidents. Irresponsible consumption of alcohol can place a Marine in a higher risk of becoming a victim or a predator. When appropriate, legal and/or administrative action will be taken against violators. It is imperative that Marines take care of each other to not allow a fellow Marine to be victimized due to intoxication, or to end a career if they are convicted of a sex offense.

The Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA) stand ready to provide assistance to victims of sexual assault. Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims of sexual assault are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized and wounded; they are to be treated with decency, sensitivity, and respect. Victims are to receive appropriate care in a timely and professional manner. Care must be taken to ensure the identity of the victim is safeguarded appropriately.

Eliminating sexual assault will take a coordinated group effort. All of the members of this unit must seek to prevent sexual assault and be prepared to respond immediately to the needs of the victim. All leaders will ensure their Marines are familiar with this policy and attend annual training on sexual assault prevention.

Preventing sexual assault and instilling our ethos as Marines to respect and look out for each other is an imperative within this command. **Every leader is charged with ensuring that their actions and words instill a zero tolerance attitude towards sexual assault. The climate you create is the squadron's rallying point for the realistic and achievable objective of preventing sexual assault. Preventing this heinous crime begins with us! Our Marines and Sailors deserve nothing less.**

Handwritten signature of K. R. Arbogast in cursive.

K. R. ARBOGAST  
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