



COMMANDING OFFICER MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE POLICY STATEMENT



Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threat, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not, or cannot consent. Sexual assault is a crime which undermines our Core Values, and has no place in our Corps. Sexual Assault is a crime which not only violates individual victims, but also damages the entire command. This crime is not restricted by gender, age, or rank.

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Preventing sexual assault is the responsibility of every member of the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma team. Being a bystander is not an option. Marines must take decisive action to prevent sexual assault. That means stopping the behaviors which lead to sexual assault, such as sexual harassment and other disrespectful treatment, abuse of alcohol or drugs, and inappropriate violence or aggression. Marines must follow their training and safely intervene in any situation which could lead to a sexual assault.

Every leader shall become familiar with the contents of Marine Corps Order 1752.5C, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program. Commanders and subordinate leaders shall ensure that every member of their command is provided with necessary information about the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma SAPR Program, and that they receive annual refresher training.

Victim safety is paramount. Victims of sexual assault may be physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized. They are to be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect. Victims will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services in a timely, professional manner. Care shall be taken to ensure that the identity of a victim of sexual assault is released only to those who have a valid need to know per the appropriate orders.

Victims who choose to make a restricted report will have their choice honored to the fullest extent. Every victim who makes a report must have confidence in the command and the SAPR Program, and must know that their personal safety will be protected. They will not be stigmatized by members of their unit. If, as a victim or SAPR Victim Advocate, you experience any form of retaliation, reprisal, ostracism, or maltreatment, you can seek assistance in reporting this through your immediate chain of command, the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Inspector, or the Victim's Legal Counsel.

Alcohol use is frequently a contributing factor to sexual assault incidents. I challenge all Marines to eliminate behavior which violates our Core Values and undermines our Marine Corps. Take care of each other. Do not allow alcohol to contribute to poor decisions which could result in a fellow Marine being victimized.

The Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, SAPR Victim Advocates (SAPR VA), and counselors stand ready to provide assistance to victims of sexual assault. Commanders are responsible for selecting the best suited, most qualified representatives to serve as SAPR VAs, and to employ the available resources for victim support, case management and training to ensure all members of the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma team are educated about this crime.

Eliminating sexual assault will take a coordinated effort, and I challenge everyone to accept responsibility for achieving this goal. Our Marines, Sailors, Civilian Marines and family members deserve this from our team.

For assistance, contact the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line at (928) 941-3601 or the DoD Safe Helpline phone number at (877) 995-5247.

Charles E. Dudik
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