



Statement on Sexual Assault Prevention



Sexual assault is an absolute contradiction to who we are as Spartans and Marines. This command will never tolerate sexual assault under any circumstances, and Spartans will not tolerate it among our ranks. You have the right to be safe from sexual violence.

Sexual assault occurs when there is violence, the threat of harm, abuse of power, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Often alcohol is involved, and alcohol consumption can possibly render individuals incapable of consent. Additionally, any action that involves uninvited contact with genitalia may also be sexual assault, even if the perpetrator meant the action to be roughhousing or horseplay. There is no circumstance in which uninvited contact is appropriate.

I expect each of you to be **honorable** and to uphold the values that bind us together. You will never commit an act of sexual violence, nor will you tolerate others who do.

From each of you, I expect **courage**; the courage to do what's right and not what's easy. Show the internal fortitude to step into a questionable situation, removing a fellow Marine from potential danger or preventing a Marine from acting on poor choices. We take care of each other.

I expect you to have the courage to report. It is every Marine's obligation to report sexual assault once they have knowledge of a situation. Silence is moral cowardice and allows the cancer of sexual violence to fester and pervade our community. You will not be silent.

I expect you to have the **commitment** to your fellow Marines to actively support victims and reporters of sexual violence. Fear of retaliation or exclusion can lead victims to remain silent, which creates further trauma to the individual and to our community. I expect you to be vigilant to ensure victims and reporters are not subject to exclusion or social isolation.

If a sexual assault happens to you, we are here, ready to provide support and take action. Assistance is available from our Chaplain, LCDR Paul Greer, at 252-466-2957, from our Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA), SSgt Ashland at 252-466-2850, or from our Sexual Response Coordinator (SARC) Wendy Maddox at 252-876-6352. For immediate help, please contact the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247.

As Spartans, we are a community of warriors with the honor, courage and commitment to actively confront sexual violence within our ranks. We will make difficult choices to ensure that our core values remain the uncompromising guide to our actions and our character.

Commanding Officer
Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28

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