

# MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 273 SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY STATEMENT

8 July 2013



The Marine Corps and associated Navy/Marine Corps team members represent a melting pot of different races, genders, religions, ages, colors, and national origins. The synergies gained by these different backgrounds and experiences contribute to and make us the successful institution we are today. The fabric of that successful aggregation is ripped apart when incidents of sexual assault occur in our organization(s). Words, activities, and/or actions that comprise such negative conduct will not be tolerated. Let me be very clear: **SEXUAL ASSAULT IS A CRIME** not restricted to any single grouping of individual and/or background, **AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED** in this command.

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, forcible sodomy (oral or anal sex), and other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful (including unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts. Knowledge of such activity without taking action is just as equally incriminating and complicit and 100% contrary to our foundational Corps Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. As such, all MWSS 273 Marines and Sailors are responsible for enforcing Marine Corps and Squadron policies on sexual harassment and assault. I require leaders at all levels to have a thorough understanding of and become familiar with MCO 1752.5B, "Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program."

There are many contributing factors to sexual assault to include 1) the close proximity of different genders in the work place and 2) the consumption of alcohol. In regards to the former, we will foster an environment that capitalizes on each of our team members working in an environment where the treatment of others is done both with dignity and respect; treat others as you desire to be treated. In regards to alcohol consumption, we will only imbibe if old enough to engage in such activity, and we will do so in a manner that is indicative of the level of responsibility and accountability I place on all Marines and Sailors of this command. We will watch each other's backs and not allow our Marines and Sailors to become either victims of or victimized due to intoxication.

As a command, we will ensure that any person who is sexually assaulted is treated fairly, with dignity, sensitivity, and without prejudice; is treated in a manner that does not usurp control from the victim, but enables the victim to be protected through fair, conscientious, and unbiased treatment as individuals. In this fair and equitable treatment, leaders must recognize that both genders can be sexual assault victims.

## **Victims of sexual assault have two (2) methods of reporting the assault: unrestricted and restricted reporting.**

Both forms afford the victim emotional/psychological support, advocacy, medical assistance, and counseling.

**Unrestricted reporting** includes all suspected, alleged, or actual sexual assaults made know to law enforcement for formal investigation. **Restricted reporting** affords military victims of sexual assault the option to make a confidential report to specific individuals without the involvement of law enforcement or command investigation. Both types of reporting can be made to a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA), Health Care Provider (HCP), or the DoD Safe Helpline at (877) 995-5247.

My direct representatives in these matters are 1stLtCarolynn Aranha (Engineer Co – [carolynn.aranha@usmc.mil](mailto:carolynn.aranha@usmc.mil); [843] 228-8383) and SSgt Marcus Jones (Headquarters and Service Co – [marcus.jones@usmc.mil](mailto:marcus.jones@usmc.mil); [843] 228-8394). Do not hesitate to utilize them for further information/education and/or as an initial step towards facilitating a swift and sure remedy to a sexual assault problem.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.B. Stone IV".

J.B. STONE IV  
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC  
Commanding Officer, MWSS-273