



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY STATEMENT



As the Nation's premier fighting force, our Corps takes a proactive approach to preventing and responding to sexual assault. Sexual assault is a crime that stands in direct opposition to our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. It erodes unit cohesion, destroys trust, and diminishes morale.

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. It is a crime that can affect anyone, regardless of race, sex, or age. Protecting our most valuable asset—our people—requires each of us to take personal responsibility for fostering a command climate rooted in professionalism, dignity, and respect. Prevention-focused leadership is essential to promoting protective factors and eliminating behaviors that condone or enable prohibited or criminal conduct. We must recognize that sexual assault is a crime, and those who commit such acts will be held accountable.

Victims who choose to report must be recognized for their courage. We honor their decision by treating them with sensitivity, decency, and respect. It is imperative that we are familiar with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) policy, including reporting options, the expansion of restricted reporting, and all related policies. A victim can choose to make a restricted or unrestricted report. A restricted report allows a victim to receive SAPR services, medical, counseling, and legal services without law enforcement or leadership involvement. An unrestricted report allows for the same services offered for a restricted report, but a law enforcement investigation will take place, and victims will receive the full support of their command. Please reach out to the SAPR program for further information on reporting options. We must also be vigilant in preventing sexual assault and eliminating retaliation against those who come forward.

If you are a victim of sexual assault, confidential resources are available to discuss your reporting options and support your recovery. MCAS Beaufort 24/7 Sexual Support Hotline (843) 321-6009 and DoD Safe Helpline (1-877-995-5247 or www.safehelpline.org).

Leadership is critical to the success of the SAPR mission. We must lead prevention conversations and take a proactive stance in maintaining a robust SAPR capability. All Marines, Sailors, and civilians must be familiar with the SAPR program (MCO 1752.5C) and understand their role in preventing sexual assault. We cannot deviate from policy, shortcut annual training, or minimize the importance of prevention. We must support those who come forward, know our resources, and mentor and empower our Marines, Sailors, and civilians to intervene and prevent sexual assault. Together, through unwavering commitment and leadership, we will uphold our values, protect our people, and ensure the continued strength and integrity of our Corps.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Trevor J. Felter".

Trevor J. Felter
Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer