



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY STATEMENT



Each member of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort is critically important to our mission and to the Marine Corps. The impact that sexual assault creates resonates across the institution and destroys our ability to work together in accomplishing our mission. This criminal act destroys morale, unit cohesion, and the ability to effectively accomplish our mission. It is contrary to our core values.

Sexual Assault is a criminal offense that affects individuals, families, and units to name a few. Violators will be held accountable and subject to legal and/or administrative action. Victims will be treated with decency, sensitivity, and provided all the necessary services to aid in their recovery. Prevention is the key! We will not treat our brothers and sisters in arms this way. Have the courage to do the right thing and intervene.

It is imperative that victims of sexual assault know that they can immediately seek assistance and care through restricted or unrestricted reporting. I assure you; all communication will be kept confidential and secure. Instances of minor collateral misconduct that occur in conjunction with sexual assault should not be a barrier to reporting and may not be prosecuted. The 24hr Sexual Assault Hotline (843-321-6009) has dedicated professionals who can offer support and guidance. This includes well trained SAPR victim advocates for both uniform, civilian, and family members as well.

Let me be clear – sexual assault will not be tolerated in any form.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark D. Bortnem".

Mark D. Bortnem
Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer