



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND
471 EAST C STREET
NORFOLK VA 23511-2419

1752
N00
8 Sep 23

MEMORANDUM

From: Commander, Military Sealift Command

Subj: COMMANDER'S POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

Ref: (a) DoD Directive 6495.02 of 6 September 2022
(b) SECNAVINST 1752.4C
(c) OPNAVINST 1752.1C
(d) COMSCINST 1752.1A

1. The prevention of sexual assault is everyone's responsibility. It does not just hurt one, it affects ALL. Sexual assault undermines teamwork, morale, unit cohesion, and operational readiness. The effects of sexual assault dramatically impact the victims for years to come. Sexual assault is incompatible with the core values of the Navy and Military Sealift Command (MSC). I have a "zero tolerance" policy for this criminal offense. It is each and every Sailor's and civilian employee's responsibility to adhere to this policy and do his or her part to eliminate this crime within our organization per references (a) through (c).

2. Sexual assault encompasses a broad range of intentional and non-consensual sexual contact, and may include rape, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, and forcible sodomy. The most powerful tool in stopping and preventing sexual violence offenses is Bystander Intervention (BI). The BI process includes the following:

- a. Notice the event
- b. Interpret it as an emergency
- c. Take responsibility to act - don't assume someone else will
- d. Decide how to act
- e. Choose to act

3. There are two reporting options available: Unrestricted Reporting or Restricted Reporting. With the Unrestricted Reporting option, anyone may report a sexual assault to the Sexual Assault Regional Coordinator (SARC), Sexual Assault Prevention Response Victim Advocate (SAPR VA), healthcare personnel, or to command authorities; an official investigation will take place. Restricted Reporting is available only for military personnel and eligible dependents 18 years and older; personnel using this reporting option can only report to the SAPR Program Manager, SARC, SAPR VA, or healthcare personnel; an official investigation will not take place. In

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addition to the above reporting procedures, military personnel may seek assistance via the Safe Helpline at <https://www.safehelpline.org/> or 877-995-5249.

4. As referenced above, committing, or attempting to commit, sexual assault is a crime. Violators will be reported, investigated, and may be subject to disciplinary action.
5. Sexual assault is illegal and has no place at MSC. As the Commander, I am committed to doing everything possible to ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of everyone employed at MSC.
6. This memorandum will be widely disseminated and prominently posted on official bulletin boards throughout the workplace and MSC websites for viewing.



P. E. SOBECK