

COMMANDING OFFICER'S
VMAT-203 SEXUAL ASSAULT STATEMENT



As Marines, we hold to our core values in respecting the dignity of others and take care of our own. Any attack on the dignity of another Marine goes against these values and will not be tolerated in this command. Any attack or assault of a sexual nature will be investigated as a criminal act.

Sexual assault is a crime defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat of force, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship or age of the victim.

"Consent" shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious. Irresponsible consumption of alcohol is frequently cited in sexual assault incidents and can place a Marine at increased risk. Therefore, all leaders will stress the need for the responsible consumption of alcohol, both on and off base, and not allow any Marine to be victimized as a result of intoxication.

All of the members of this squadron must seek to prevent sexual assault and be prepared to respond immediately to the needs of the victim. Victims of a sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect. Victims will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. Care will be given to ensure that the identity of a victim of a sexual assault is released only to those who have a need to know (i.e., the Commanding Officer, Provost Marshal's Office, or Naval Criminal Investigative Service). Victim safety is paramount at all times.

All leaders will ensure their Marines are familiar with the contents of the reference and at a minimum attend annual training on sexual assault prevention. I have appointed two Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA) to implement my policy and conduct required training. The UVAs names and contact information are posted throughout the squadron or can be found with the Squadron Duty Officer or the Barracks NCO.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. C. Wirth". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

C. C. WIRTH

