

The following is an email response from Camp Pendleton officials to questions from the San Clemente Times regarding the document "[Reports of Sexual Assault Received at Military Installations and Combat Areas of Interest](#)," published Nov. 17, 2017. The responses were submitted by Carl Redding, the communication director of Camp Pendleton.

For context, Camp Pendleton has around 25% of the active duty Marines. Caution should be used in comparing reports by installation. Just like comparing reports by city or county in the United States, one would not expect the number of sexual assault reports from a less populated location to be comparable to the number of sexual assault reports from a more populated location. Additionally, the numbers reflect information from multiple commands and multiple source locations. No definitive statement can be made about a crime rate at a given installation based on the reporting data. This is because a number of the reports may concern allegations that have occurred elsewhere in the world or occurred prior to joining the military, but were reported at the installation named.

As the DoD stated, the reports are grouped by the installation where the report was made OR where the report was managed by a sexual assault response counselor (SARC). The numbers do not necessarily reflect where or even when an alleged assault occurred. The installation data listed may include reports for sexual assaults that: occurred at another location, occurred prior to the victim's military service, occurred while the victim was deployed, on leave, or in a temporary duty status, or were transferred to the installation listed due to duty assignment change or an expedited transfer.

The installations listed in the report are those installations that were managing the sexual assault report at the end of the time period listed. As a result, these numbers may not reflect a record of incidents that occurred at or near the installation. The number of reports at each installation is not the same as a sexual assault crime rate. A crime rate captures all the crimes that occur within a given area – not just the crimes that are reported. Installations with more reports tend to be the larger military installations. However, comparing the number of reports at one installation to another may not give an accurate picture of the differences between them.

Finally concerning the number of reports, we are unable to determine at our command substantiated reports, courts martial etc. since there are multiple commands on the installation like I Marine Expeditionary Force, Training and Education Command, various Navy commands and others. The reports given by the Department of Defense don't break it down by commands. You will need to contact the Department of Defense for more information specific to this topic.

There are currently no changes expected with regard to efforts or outreach due to the recent report.

The SAPR program serves as the focal point for coordinating all sexual assault prevention and response actions on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

The SAPR Program's mission is two-fold: to address the needs of military members, their spouses, and adult dependents that have been victims of sexual assault and to proactively provide

relevant, interactive training on a regular, continuous basis to all Marines and Sailors aboard MCB Camp Pendleton in an effort to eliminate sexual assault.

Every battalion/squadron-sized Marine unit has at least two Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA) assigned to help lessen the stress of a sexual assault. Unit UVAs have been trained and are able to offer victims assistance in three main areas: support, providing information about the different reporting options afforded them, and referrals to a multitude of different resources – both on base and in the local civilian community. UVAs, civilian advocates, and sexual assault response coordinators all have the same license and are not counselors. They all make referrals to counselors, mental health professionals, and to victim's legal counsel (VLC). They help victims navigate the system and can put the victims in touch with licensed, certified counselors and professionally trained victim advocates.

The SAPR Program is dedicated to eliminating sexual assault within the Marine Corps and providing continuity of care for victims of sexual assault through effective education, policy, and program support.

Services provided include:

- *24/7 sexual assault crisis intervention for all service members, spouses, and adult dependents
- *Advocacy and accompaniment during medical, law enforcement, and judicial proceedings
- *Systemic advocacy to ensure all victims receive a consistent response to their report
- *Support and services at next duty station (if the victim requests) through the SAPR network

All programs are mandated and overseen by the Department of Defense and Headquarters Marine Corps.