

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

How the military responds to allegations of sexual assault has come under considerable scrutiny. Congressional hearings on sexual assaults in the military, recent articles posted by DenverPost.com, and the DoD Task Force on Care of Victims of Sexual Assaults necessitate closer attention to issues surrounding sexual assaults.

Both the Victim and Witness Assistance Program (Chapter 6, LEGADMINMAN and SecNavInst 1752.4, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, assign specific responsibilities for assisting victims of crime, and in particular victims of sexual assault. A proposed Marine Corps Order on sexual assault prevention and response, including reporting requirements, is in the drafting process. Per SecNavInst 1752.4, sexual assaults include: rape, forcible sodomy, assault with the intent to commit rape or sexual assault, and indecent assaults.

There is a requirement to report sexual assaults. MCO 5740.2F, OPREP-3SIR: Serious Incident Reports directs the use of SIRs for those items of high USMC interest, including acts of serious crimes (i.e., felony arrest). This requirement is not new, however, the requirement to report all sexual assaults, as defined by SecNavInst 1752.4, via SIR will be directed in the upcoming MCO on sexual assault. Please ensure that your commanders understand this requirement.

All references noted above are found at the USMC VWAP web page: <http://sja.hqmc.usmc.mil/jam/vwap/vwap.htm>.