

Victim and Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)

Mr. Forest Thomas Victim Witness Liaison Officer **229-639-5610**

Marine Corps Mission (MCO 5800.14) is that:

“The Marine Corps executes a professional Victim and Witness Assistance Program in order to reduce the trauma, frustration and inconvenience experienced by victims and witnesses of crime; inform victims of their statutory rights; and, assist victim and witness understanding of the military justice process.”

Victims and witnesses often face adverse effects from crime. In the Marine Corps, victims and witnesses shall not face the effects of crime alone. The VWAP ensures victims and witnesses are provided with meaningful assistance once a crime is reported. The VWAP is specifically designed to lessen the effects of crime on victims and witnesses and to help them understand and participate in the military justice process. The military justice system operates to ensure good order and discipline is maintained in the Marine Corps. Without the cooperation of victims and witnesses, the military justice system would cease to function.

The Marine Corps will do all that is possible, within the limits of available resources and the law, to assist victims and witnesses of crime without infringing on the constitutional rights of an accused. Particular attention shall be paid to victims of violent crimes including, but not limited to, child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault. If you are a victim or a witness of a crime and have not been given the brochure **INITIAL INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESS OF CRIME (DD Form 2701)** call me - you have rights!

The specialized concerns and issues surrounding sexual assaults require all personnel involved in these cases to give additional consideration to the sensitive treatment of such victims. The Marine Corps Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) oversee all programs and services provided to sexual assault victims. To report restricted or unrestricted sexual assault, contact your UVA or SAPR.

**SAPR Program Manager & Installation SARC &
Installation Victim Advocate: Call (229) 639-5252**

MCLB 24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline: 229-881-3883

Victim and Witness Rights*

- (1) To be treated with fairness and respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.
- (2) To be reasonably protected from the accused.
- (3) To be notified of any decision to dispose of an allege offense at court-martial, NJP or ADSEP proceedings.
- (4) To be present at all public court-martial, NJP, and ADSEP proceedings, unless the court or legal advisor, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially affected if the victim heard other testimony at the proceeding. This right does not obligate the government to pay for expenses incurred by the victim to be present.
- (5) To be reasonably heard at any public proceeding involving release, plea, sentencing, or parole of the accused. This right does not obligate the government to pay for expenses incurred by the victim to be present.
- (6) To confer with the attorney for the Government in the case.
- (7) To receive information about the conviction, sentence, confinement, and release of the accused.
- (8) To be notified of the apprehension of an accused, the initial appearance of an accused before a military judge, the release of the accused pending court-martial, any escape of the accuse, and the time and location of any trial, NJP, or ADSEP proceedings (including entry of guilty pleas and sentencing).
- (9) To proceeding free from unreasonable delay.
- (10) To receive available restitution.