



## COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFETY

**Mission accomplishment will continue to be the total focus of effort within MWSS-171.** Failure to accomplish our mission is a totally unacceptable alternative. **Safety is an essential component of mission accomplishment.** Inherent to mission accomplishment is the safety and welfare of our Marines as well as the preservation of our materiel assets. We cannot hope to accomplish our mission while remaining ignorant of safety considerations.

Operational Risk Management (ORM) is **NOT** a safety program. Rather, it is an operational process. ORM is a proactive vice reactive approach to assessing the risks associated with the conduct of daily operations. **We will incorporate ORM into ALL facets of daily operations within MWSS-171, to include off duty activities.** Consider ORM another mission planning tool to assist each of us in conducting cost-benefit / risk analysis of those things impacting the accomplishment of our mission. We must ensure the benefits outweigh the risks or adjust the plan to compensate for the risks. When we manage the risks we control the situation rather than being controlled by it. ORM is nothing more than institutionalized common sense.

Our mandate is that "...[we] remain most ready when the nation is least ready." That focus has proven to be successful time and time again for MWSS-171. We will continue to maintain that focus, hone our skills to a fine edge, and **remain professional in all things.** Readiness is inexorably tied to mission accomplishment. Successful training leads to true readiness. **Safety is inherent to successful training.** If we are not safe, we are not ready. I will not allow training in an unsafe manner. **No "zero-defect mentality" but an absolute zero tolerance of negligence, ignorance, or lack of professionalism.** We own lots of different equipment, and it is my responsibility to ensure we are trained to the highest attainable standards with the equipment we have at our disposal. The implication is obvious; take care of each other and our equipment to maximize the affect on mission accomplishment.

A lack of communication, the inability to act, or the unwillingness to get involved contributes to mishaps. This "paralysis" factor needs to be overcome through the empowerment of every member of MWSS-171. Empowerment will occur through education. Learning from your mistakes and those of others leads to experience. Experience breeds sound decisions. **Safety is not a spectator sport! Participate! Get involved!** Safety is a fundamental obligation and responsibility of sound leadership. Self-discipline is the first step. Active supervision will naturally follow. Everyone monitors standards. Everyone is a safety professional...if you notice something unsafe, act immediately!

**Statistics prove that repeated instances of unsafe behavior (practiced misbehavior) WILL result in a mishap.** By acting to break the chain of linked, unsafe behavioral events, mishaps can be averted. Take care of yourself and each other. Know your personal limits as well as the imposed limits – do NOT exceed either, even in combat. Don't give the enemy a "cheap kill."



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