



Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1 Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Safety



Operating in a safe environment does not mean operating only in a risk-free environment. Risk is inherent in many things we do and "safe" is a relative term. A safe operating environment is one where risk is managed by controlling and mitigating risk factors regardless of operational complexity. As Marines and Sailors, we learn to manage risk through the Operational Risk Management (ORM) process: (1) Identify Hazards, (2) Assess Hazards, (3) Make Risk Decisions, (4) Implement Controls, (5) Supervise. Members of MWHS-1 shall apply the ORM process in planning, operations, training, and non-operational activities (to include off-duty activities) in order to manage risk and optimize operational capability and readiness. This process shall be implemented at all levels, both organizationally and individually. Risks are to be weighed and balanced against mission requirements and should only be accepted where benefits outweigh potential cost or loss. Accepting unnecessary risk is unacceptable.

Safety is a byproduct of professionalism and good leadership. The exercise of basic leadership principles, known to every Marine, directly contributes to the safety of MWHS-1 Marines, Sailors, their families, and friends.

- ***Be technically and tactically proficient.*** Ensure you are knowledgeable enough about the activity in which you are involved to allow you to properly identify risks. Accidents due to ignorance should not occur.
- ***Know yourself and seek self-improvement.*** Know and operate within your limitations; personal limitations within you as well as those limitations imposed upon you through rules and regulations.
- ***Know your Marines and look out for their welfare.*** Force preservation and warfighting capability are intrinsically linked. Know the limitations and capabilities of those you have stewardship over, to include family and friends.
- ***Keep your Marines informed.*** Situational awareness enables good decision making. As conditions change, such as mission, risk factors, or regulations, ensure all involved are aware. Proper risk decisions are informed decisions.
- ***Set the example.*** Do not be a hypocrite or complacently take risks yourself that you would not accept from others.
- ***Ensure the task is understood, supervised, and accomplished.*** Unnecessary risk can occur due to perceptions or expectations beyond what is actually required. A sound understanding of mission and intent may prevent one from taking unnecessary risks.
- ***Train your Marines as a team.*** A safe environment is a team effort. Anyone could be in a position to either cause or prevent an unsafe act or occurrence.
- ***Make sound and timely decisions.*** Don't wait until you have exceeded your limitations to take corrective action. Stay inside your box.
- ***Develop a sense of responsibility in your subordinates.*** Risk decisions are made at all levels.
- ***Employ your unit in accordance with its capabilities.*** Assess unit limitations and capabilities in the context of constraints and restraints required for mission accomplishment and do not exceed the limitations of the unit.
- ***Seek responsibility and take responsibility for your actions.*** Have the moral courage to speak out when you see someone taking an unnecessary risk. Do not be the innocent bystander.

Semper Fidelis,

JOSEPH E. RUPP
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1