



Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Safety



Taking care of Marines means looking out for their safety. **Safety is an all-hands effort** and should be an integral part of our lives both on and off-duty. Each year, the Marine Corps suffers damage, injury, and deaths from preventable off-duty and training mishaps, wasting precious resources and damaging our **operational readiness**. A properly integrated and implemented safety program is an effective force multiplier to preserving our people and our equipment to be ready to **“Fight Now and Win”**.

Operational Excellence

“Safety” is what naturally happens when we are performing to high standards by striving towards expert execution of our warfighting mission. To be operationally effective, Marines must know and apply their safety procedures proactively during mission planning.

- Understanding there is a right way to do things.
- Knowing the right way to do things (or seeking the right answer).
- Consciously choosing to do things the right way, every time.

Culture of Safety

Safety must be a mindset integrated into everything we do, demanding continuous improvement and the pursuit of the highest standards.

- Encourages personnel to report unsafe working conditions.
- Promotes the importance of reporting hazards.
- Communicates and incorporates lessons learned.

Risk Management

Safety and risk management go hand-in-hand. **Operational readiness** demands that we anticipate and manage risk at all levels. A tactically sound plan is an inherently risk-managed plan. **We do not accept unnecessary risk.**

- Identify and assess hazards.
- Assess risk and make risk decisions (at the appropriate levels).
- Implement controls and supervise.

Safety mishaps have a detrimental effects on combat power, manpower availability, equipment readiness, and unit and individual performance. We cannot become complacent – **safety is a leadership responsibility at every level**. We do not “cut corners” or sacrifice safety for expediency or convenience. **All Marines are responsible to intervene if they observe an unsafe situation** – whether it’s at work, in the field or off-duty.

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