



HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

COMMANDING OFFICER'S SAFETY POLICY



The future of the Marine Corps rests with the Marines we lead and train today. It is imperative that every Marine leader protect the force by integrating risk management into all facets of training and off-duty activities. To do this, Marine leaders must be familiar with risk management and must integrate risk-reduction measures into every operation. Safety is a byproduct of professionalism, not a stand-alone item. It cannot be achieved simply by following a checklist. Safety must be an integral part of every activity, both on and off duty, from start to finish.

Risk management is a continuous process by which we assess hazards, take steps to eliminate or reduce the hazards, and ensure that the proper controls and supervision are provided. This is as true after working hours as it is on the job. Most injuries occur while away from work, with most fatalities occurring in POV's. Your actions have far-reaching consequences. Think before you act in all you do, both at home and at work. Risk management must become second nature, not simply a paperwork drill. Taking unnecessary risks with people's lives and military equipment is irresponsible.

I am committed to the preservation and well-being of our Marines, Sailors, civilian employees and family members of this command and will encourage and reward safe behavior and performance by all members of this unit. Risk mitigation is a 24/7 requirement and must be tied to open and continuous communication between Marines and their leaders. It is especially important that leaders within the command empower subordinate leaders, especially first line supervisors who are in the best position to impact our highest risk group – young Marines in the grade of E-5 and below.

Accidents are impediments to training, mission readiness and morale. Informal counseling is the most effective way to positively influence behavior. It is an approach that demonstrates leaders' commitment to taking care of Marines. In addition to normally scheduled counseling, supervisors should meet with Marines prior to any period of increased risk, including high tempo ops, long weekends, holiday and leave periods in order to conduct an individual risk assessment of the Marine's plans.

Our achievable goal is no loss of life, no serious injuries, and no destruction of government property through needless and preventable accidents. To achieve this goal, I **empower and require** every Marine, Sailor and civilian in the Squadron, both on and off duty, to stop any unsafe condition or circumstance whenever and wherever it is found. I further require that any Marine, Sailor or civilian regardless of rank who brings an unsafe condition to their fellow Marines' attention must be acknowledged and corrective action to the unsafe condition must be taken. An unsafe condition can be as simple as failing to wear a cranial when on top of a helicopter or a fellow Marine jumping off a cliff into the river while on liberty. Each of you must endeavor to stop that unsafe condition. To do less is to fail yourselves, your fellow Marines and your Corps.

Every accident could have been prevented if just one Marine had the sense to say "stop." Take the initiative to be that professional Marine, and as a professional, integrate safety in all that you do.


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