



## COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SAFETY



**EVERYONE** has the moral authority and obligation to break the chain of events that can lead to a mishap.

Safety is synonymous with common sense. Disciplined professionals who adhere to safety procedures and the operational risk management process will achieve personal and professional excellence. I charge all SPMAGTF CP-10 Marines to adhere to safe practices in all we do; on-duty, off-duty, in garrison, or deployed in support of combat operations. Furthermore, every Marine has the moral obligation to speak up if something does not feel right. Trust your gut instinct and take the initiative. Remember, leadership is action more so than position.

**We Take Care of Our Own:** The individual Marine is truly our “greatest asset.” Taking care of our own means sometimes, leaders need to say no. For clarification, if a Marine wants to take part in an unsafe activity or push the safety limits, leaders must have the moral courage and conviction to say no. The Marine may be upset, but in the end, you may have just saved a life.

**Know Your Marines:** Marines work hard and play hard. Unfortunately, we do not always play safely. We lose more Marines from off-duty mishaps and training events than we do in combat. Specifically, the number of injuries resulting from motorcycle accidents, driving under the influence, and suicide attempts is staggering. Our duty is to genuinely know our Marines, their activities, and their hobbies. If Marines are engaged in dangerous activities, our duty as leaders is to ensure they are properly trained and equipped to play hard, while doing so safely.

**Excellence:** Safety is not just a step in planning; it is infused in everything we do. As such, a tactically sound plan by definition is safe and applicable whether you are controlling aircraft, operating heavy equipment, driving a tactical vehicle, riding a motorcycle or car, going on liberty, returning from leave, or driving to work. Do not cut corners, take unnecessary risk, or violate the rules. Think before you act; use common sense and ask the “what if?” question.

Safety does not only apply to our Marines, but also to our equipment. How can we fight our enemy if our Marines are injured or equipment damaged? Most everything Marines do involves some form of risk which cannot be eliminated; however, we should never accept unnecessary risk. We will learn to manage risk by disciplining ourselves with safe practices and operational risk management (ORM). ORM is a process for all Marines to use both on and off duty which includes: (1) Identify hazards, (2) Assess hazards, (3) Make risk decisions, (4) Implement controls, (5) Supervise. In the words of Aristotle, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence therefore is not an act, but rather a habit.”

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