



COMMANDING OFFICER'S SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

Warfare, by definition, includes a certain acceptance of risk. Battles are not won by cowering in fighting holes. Even in combat, though, Marines take actions to reduce their personal risks while continuing to inflict our will on the enemy. The further we remove ourselves from a combat zone, the acceptance of risks decreases and safety becomes more paramount. If we disregard safety as we go about our daily routines and train for combat, we risk being nondeployable or ineffective in combat. We must, therefore, remain constantly vigilant, conducting risk assessments and reducing hazards as we focus on mission accomplishment.

As the Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, and Camp Commander for Camps Foster & Lester, I recognize and accept my responsibility for ensuring a safe and healthy work environment for all military and civilian members working aboard or transiting our Camps. I must rely on each and everyone of you to identify unsafe conditions in your work, living, and liberty environments so that we can properly address them.

I am confident in your individual ability to recognize potential hazards. After an incident occurs, someone always says that he or she felt the situation might go badly but failed to act. Do not hesitate to act on that gut feeling that so often accompanies an unsafe condition. Complacency and hesitancy lead to accidents.

A safe operating environment requires adherence to the following principles:

- We incorporate Operational Risk Management into all activities.
- We regularly inspect our gear, our premises, and our processes for unsafe conditions.
- We study incidents for lessons learned and incorporate changes in order to prevent recurrence.
- We properly use, store and transport dangerous articles and hazardous materials to reduce risks.
- We train all members of the command to identify potentially unsafe conditions and encourage them to take immediate action to reduce associate risk.
- We take a few extra minutes to do things safely; we may not get the chance to do them over.

Our future successes depend on the preservation of our physical resources and protection of our work force. To this end, we will establish a culture where "doing the right thing, the right way" means taking the time to understand and mitigate the potential risks and health hazards to which our work force may be exposed. I challenge each and every Marine, Sailor and civilian to incorporate safety and Operational Risk Management into everything you do on and off duty. Safety program assistance and support is available by contacting the H&S Battalion Safety Officer, Staff Sergeant Duqueolvera (645-3813), and the MCB Installation Safety office (645-3806/2729).

Semper Fidelis,

K. J. ESTES