



## COMMANDING OFFICER'S SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

Our mission as U.S. Marines is a serious and dangerous business. In order to fight our country's battles at a moment's notice, we must continue to provide realistic training balanced with a strong emphasis on operational safety. Training the way we fight means we build our training plans sensibly using the time proven formula of "crawl, walk, run." There is inherent risk in all that we do as a Headquarters and Support Battalion, to include work space, ground training, maintenance efforts, and off duty activities. We will mitigate this risk by having a detailed plan, solid communication, professionalism, supervision, and by not senselessly exposing ourselves to unnecessary risk. Risk mitigation is one of the greatest tools available to every Marine, Sailor and civilian.

As the Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Support Battalion, and Camp Commander for Camps Foster & Lester, I ask you to consider the risks and rewards of any course of action before executing it both on and off duty. Identify the risks then develop and implement the control measures. There is always something that can be done to avoid a mishap. Stop the unsafe evolution and take corrective action immediately. By embracing high standards and maintaining continuing safety awareness in all activities, we will ensure a safe and healthy environment in which we can all work and train.

I am confident in your individual ability to recognize potential hazards. Do not hesitate to act on that gut feeling that so often precedes 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 associated risk.

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 Bitterman (645-2096), and the MCB Installation Safety office (645-3806/2729).

Semper Fidelis,

*T. A. Pecina*  
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