



## COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFETY

Safety is an integral part of all we do. Whether in garrison, training, or combat environments, an active assessment of our surroundings should be an ongoing part of all our activities. Unintended or unanticipated factors frequently result in damage, injury, or death- to those around us, our teammates, or ourselves. There is no way to completely remove risk, but a mindset that actively takes risk into account through every phase of an operation helps ensure that our units remain combat ready.

Too frequently, safety is looked at as a hindrance or a needless additional step with no direct benefit that is not necessary in a "real" operational setting. This is absolutely not the case- accidents will injure and kill people more quickly in combat than they do in any other environment. Training and garrison settings are where we develop the habits of thought and action that will help us preserve our force in combat.

Nobody sets out with the intent to get into an accident. Although accidents happen for a variety of reasons, accident prevention over the long-term is the result of a culture that prioritizes active accident prevention through high expectations, training, deliberate application of a Risk Management framework, and focused, professional execution of tasks. Risk Management is a deliberate process that helps unit members deliberately think through any set of circumstances to identify areas of increased hazard, assess risks, develop and implement mitigation techniques to ensure that unit members have the knowledge, training, and equipment necessary to carry out their missions with confidence.

Risk is a fact of life. Many factors contribute to increasing it: inexperience, environmental factors, complacency, and inattention to name just a few. As leaders, we must be conscious of this risk and understand how much we are actually accepting. By deliberately thinking through the Risk Management process and preparing for the worst potentialities instead of simply hoping for the best possible outcomes, we can actively lower the risk we are accepting while increasing our chances of mission success.

- ❖ On a day-to-day basis, apply Risk Management practices by identifying hazards, assessing risks and implementing controls.
- ❖ Develop a culture that fosters an environment where personnel are actively encouraged and rewarded for identifying areas of heightened risk and taking steps to mitigate it.
- ❖ Fight against complacency. Be aware that this is a human tendency and guard against it.
- ❖ Ensure that workforce safety training is conducted. Reinforce the link between safety and operational success.

We have been entrusted with our Nation's most precious resource- its sons and daughters. Leaders have a moral responsibility to ensure that we are worthy stewards of this resource, and I look forward to working with you to ensure that are living up to this expectation together.

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