



SAFETY POLICY



As Marines, we acknowledge and accept that we may be required to place ourselves in harm's way in the defense of the Nation. For Marines, accomplishing the mission, especially our assigned combat mission, is always of foremost importance. Sometimes, in working to accomplish the mission, we may deliberately place ourselves in an environment that is inherently dangerous. We may face an enemy who is actively trying to kill us as we seek to do the same to them. Likewise, in training, we will often seek to make the training experience as representative of a combat environment as possible, so that we can prepare our force for the challenges we anticipate once we are actually in a fight. Danger and the risk of harm to our force are very real concerns for us as Marines and I take them very seriously. Because of this, and because we do not take lightly the risks that we face in any environment, including liberty, we must take active measures to preserve our force.

On all occasions, whether off-duty conduct, high-intensity training, or actual combat operations, I expect all members of the 5/11 team to look after each other, both individually and collectively. I expect leaders to make force preservation a factor in all planning. This form of teamwork is the ultimate form of force protection. Safety is not a separate function but rather something that we must make an inherent part of our behavior.

As leaders, we are responsible for planning and executing the requisite training to keep our Marines and Sailors prepared as a force in readiness. Additionally, we are equally responsible for ensuring the safety and welfare of those Marines and Sailors at all times so that they may remain in good health and morale, and able to return home to their families.

Like countless other professions, our Marines, Sailors, and Civilians face potential hazards while on-duty. To compound this reality, our off-duty activities present just as many potential hazards, but their likelihood of occurrence is far greater because they reside outside our safety-conscience working environment. To counter the potential threats, both on and off-duty we will use Operational Risk Management (ORM) to forecast hazards and implement viable controls, thereby changing our fundamental approach to safety from a reactive art to a proactive science. ORM is the principle of our safety effort and it is imperative when leaders develop ORM worksheets, they fully understand the risks and mitigation procedures. Correct adherence to procedures will ensure safety in executing challenging tasks. We are a community of procedures. Create a culture that embraces accurate procedural execution and allows Marines to pause for clarity when needed. Exercise your moral courage and execute reset training when necessary.

All of our individual or collective actions contain an element of risk and those risks must be managed to prevent the avoidable loss of personnel or equipment. I do not accept the assertion that a high operational tempo or excessive pre-deployment adrenaline levels are mitigating factors in training and off-duty mishaps. Commanders will ensure that every member of their Battalion understands the tenets of our Battalion Policy as well as their responsibility for compliance and enforcement.

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