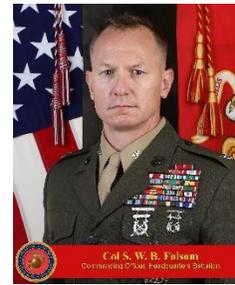




**HEADQUARTERS BATTALION  
1ST MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF**

**COMMANDER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON  
SAFETY**



*Comparing his Marines with the Japanese, [General Alexander A. Vandegrift] noted that the Japanese soldier "was trained to go to a place, stay there, fight, and die. We train our men to go to a place, fight to win, and to live. I can assure you, it is a better theory."*

*FIRST OFFENSIVE: The Marine Campaign for Guadalcanal, by Henry I. Shaw, Jr.*

Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division consistently delivers tactical excellence because of our superb Marines and Sailors. It is imperative that we foster a mindset in which proactive risk management is inherent in all actions. It is unacceptable to ever lose or seriously injure a Marine or Sailor due to preventable situations.

Our Marines and Sailors are our most precious resource. Therefore, it is incumbent upon every member of the Standard Bearer team to ensure his or her own safety and the safety of those entrusted to their care. This responsibility applies equally while on or off duty.

As directed in MCO 3500.27C, Marine Corps Risk Management is the process we will apply for all planning, operations, training, and non-operational activities. The risk management process enables us to implement controls and set conditions for the prevention of mishaps. In accordance with this order, all Marines and Sailors will apply risk management concepts to identify and mitigate risks in all tasks, missions, operations, and personal activities, whether forward-deployed, in garrison, or on liberty. In all cases, take immediate action if an unsafe situation is observed.

Every Standard Bearer is an invaluable member of the team, and each serves as a model of discipline while on and off duty. Risk is inherent in our mission, but we must always manage that risk and incorporate this process into everything we do. Risk management is not a burden; it enhances our lethality by keeping us alive to fight. In everything the Standard Bearers plan and execute, we will first ask ourselves "What could kill me or one of my Marines or Sailors today?"

A culture which considers every situation as preparation for combat will set conditions for the "prevention of preventable incidents." We will never sacrifice safety, security, or accountability for the sake of speed or expediency. Simply put, never accept unnecessary risk, either on or off duty.

*Semper Fidelis, and Faciat Georgius.*

  
S. W. B. Folsom  
Colonel USMC  
Commanding Officer

**STANDARD BEARERS: THE STANDARD IS EXCELLENCE**