Death, serious injury, or loss of materiel assets due to mishaps directly and negatively impacts the warfighting capability of the entire Marine Corps. Our profession demands tough, realistic, and high intensity training to continuously sharpen our warfighting skills and prepare us for future deployments. I expect leaders at all levels to apply risk management techniques that allow us to conduct realistic and challenging training to increase our warfighting readiness—while mitigating risk to our Marines and Sailors. This culture of safety and risk management is a leadership responsibility and also applies to actives in garrison as well as while on leave and liberty.

To this end, commanders at all levels will:

- Implement an aggressive safety program designed to enhance our warfighting capabilities and prevent both on and off-duty mishaps.

- Incorporate hazard awareness and risk management into all training, tactical operations, and off-duty recreational planning. Do not let this turn into an excuse to not properly train your units for combat. Identify the hazards, implement controls, and mitigate the risks. Risk management is an operational mindset and not limited to application in training.

- Ensure that all leaders in the regiment are aware of motorcycle training requirements regardless if they own a motorcycle or not. Commanders will ensure unit motorcycle programs comply with division requirements and that all Marines and Sailors who ride motorcycles are properly trained and certified.

- Conduct force preservation councils on a monthly basis in order to identify at risk personnel and develop the necessary program of care and rehabilitation. Invest in this process—it works.

Safety and risk management allow us to train hard, enjoy off-duty time, and preserve the force. It is the responsibility of leaders at every level of the regiment to be involved in the safe execution of our duties in garrison, the field, and during our off-duty activities. Spend some time thinking through the safety of your units—blindly accepting uncalculated and unmitigated risk will not be tolerated.

SEMPER FIDELIS,

D. J. SKUCE
COMMANDING OFFICER