



# 11TH MARINE REGIMENT

## 1st Marine Division



### Commanding Officer's Safety Policy Statement

Serving as a Marine, Sailor, or Soldier in 11th Marine Regiment is inherently dangerous. Safety and the protection of the force is a critical element of readiness and combat effectiveness. It is imperative that leadership at all levels makes risk management a habit of thought and ensures that all personnel understand the importance of adhering to established safety procedures and regulations - many of these were written in blood.

Preventable mishaps that lead to the loss of material assets and the injury or death of personnel negatively impact our warfighting capability. Furthermore, safety and risk management do not just apply to peacetime garrison environments, but also to combat zones. Throughout history, non-hostile deaths and injuries during combat operations have exponentially exceeded those caused by enemy actions.

The potential for mishaps exist in every corner of this Regiment from tactical vehicles, to the gun line, to the observation post, to the supply warehouse, to our off-duty recreation locations. Safety is every Marine and Sailor's responsibility and every member of this Regiment has an obligation to report any unsafe act. Those that jeopardize our most critical assets – people and equipment - through reckless or negligent decisions or behavior will be held accountable.

Risk management balances training and mission requirements with identified risks to the force. All of our Marines and Sailors will be familiar with the Risk Management (RM) process and all SNCOs and Officers will be intimately familiar with the requisite five steps of RM. Using this process is the cornerstone of our safety program; abiding by it enhances force preservation and fosters a culture of risk identification and risk mitigation. In addition, near miss reporting is an essential part of mishap prevention. Reporting a near miss is not a blemish on a unit, but rather a valuable lesson to be shared in order to prevent further incidents and save lives.

Risk management is also an operational imperative and a key ingredient in mission accomplishment. Whether it be the Joint Regimental Safety SOP, an applicable technical manual, or a recreational vehicle/craft operating manual, utilization of the approved safety procedures coupled with the fundamental principles of RM ensures this Regiment is postured to face our enemies at our maximum readiness level.

As the Commanding Officer of 11th Marine Regiment, I am responsible for the readiness and safety of our legendary organization. I charge our Officers, SNCOs, and small unit leaders to embrace these two complementary objectives and develop effective, creative, and meaningful ways to incorporate risk management as a habit of thought that cross-cuts all aspects of our daily actions.

SEMPER FIDELIS,

P. F. ELDRIDGE  
COMMANDING OFFICER