



**Commanding Officer
1st Battalion, 12th Marines
Safety and Force Preservation Policy**

Mission accomplishment is our number one priority; however, we cannot accomplish the mission if we needlessly jeopardize the lives of our Marines or the warfighting assets entrusted to us. Therefore, the preservation of those lives and assets must be foremost in our minds at all times. Whether it is training, maintenance or recreation, we must keep in mind that our Marines are the most precious of our resources.

Marines are in the profession of arms and it is truly a noble, but dangerous calling. This is why we must live the creed of professional excellence. We are Marines 24/7/365, not just at work or in uniform, BUT ALWAYS! Professional excellence applies on and off duty. If we live by the motto of professional excellence, safety is always an integral factor: safe vehicle operations, safe artillery, safe maintenance actions, and safe off duty activities. It doesn't mean we can't relax off duty; it does mean, ALWAYS stop to think before we act, plan for the worst, and intervene when things are going wrong. Leadership and accountability are the keys. Hold yourself and others accountable. Don't break the rules. Don't use shortcuts. Don't let others do so when you know they are jeopardizing themselves and others.

The Marine Corps excels at mitigating risk in combat in order to inflict maximum damage to our enemy while preserving our own forces to fight another day. These same basic principles in combat can be adapted for garrison use to defeat a different enemy. I expect all members of 1/12 to know and comply with established rules and regulations both on duty and off duty.

Before every evolution ask yourself this simple question: what is different this time? Throughout the course of history subtle changes in execution have resulted in mishaps due to a failure to recognize the slow increase in risk level until it is too late to shift course. Discipline in maintaining your pre-briefed game plan and recognizing when to call stop is critical to maintaining inherently safe practices. It is this discipline in execution that will preserve our most precious asset - the individual Marine, Sailor, and Civilian so we can be the most ready when our nation calls.

Safety is a leadership issue that transcends rank and billet. Anyone who encounters or observes unsafe acts or practices is expected to take appropriate action. As soon as you see a mistake and don't fix it, it's your mistake.

Michael Roach
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer