



## *Headquarters Battalion Commander's Safety Policy*



Every year the Marine Corps loses dozens of Marines and Sailors needlessly due to avoidable mishaps caused by poor judgment. Examples of this lack of judgment include failure to wear seat belts, irresponsible use of alcohol, and training complacency. Okinawa presents unique hazards with an abundance of aquatic activities, a lowered drinking age, and unfamiliar traffic patterns. Even in deployed combat environments, the number of non-combat injuries and deaths rivals those that occur in action with the enemy.

At times we will accept risk, even extreme risk. The key is that we will accept risk as a conscious decision, at the time and place of our choice. We will never accept risk simply as a matter of expediency or convenience. We must train as we fight, by balancing realistic training objectives with the need to preserve our precious war fighting assets. We will do this by controlling and mitigating risk as an inherent part of all that we do.

Operation Risk Management will be embedded in everything we do. For most recurring activities that are dangerous, such as putting a large vehicle on jack stands or conducting live-fire ranges to name a few, a standard mitigating procedure is established. In these cases, noncommissioned officer and staff noncommissioned officers will ensure that their Marines are following procedures. If a procedure does not exist for a recurring dangerous activity, it is incumbent upon supervisors to develop one and share it with the Battalion via the Safety Officer.

We work in a dangerous environment every day. Never take safety for granted. Identify and mitigate risk. Keep yourself and your fellow Marines and Sailors ready for the fight.

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