

# COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SAFETY

Preservation of our Marines, Sailors and our equipment is essential to preserving our warfighting capability. The loss of a single Marine or Sailor can be minimized through proper risk mitigation planning. Risk is inherent in our training and operations. Risk is also inherent in our off-duty activities. We will mitigate these risks through detailed planning and disciplined execution at every level. I task each Battery Commander to:



- Establish and maintain an aggressive safety program designed to enhance our warfighting capabilities and prevent both on and off-duty mishaps.
- Incorporate hazard awareness and risk management as the routine way of doing business in all training, tactical operations, and off-duty recreational planning.
- Ensure that all leaders in the battalion are aware of motorcycle training requirements regardless if they own a motorcycle or not. Leaders need to ensure that Marines who ride motorcycles have attended requisite training courses. Likewise, commanders will ensure unit motorcycle programs comport with regiment's guidance and orders regarding the same.
- Conduct Force Preservation Councils on a monthly basis to identify at risk personnel and get them the appropriate help needed.

I require all personnel to comply with established safety procedures and regulations. Proactive involvement in mishap prevention will help ensure the well-being of our Marines and Sailors. All personnel are obligated to report potentially unsafe or unhealthy work conditions to their supervisors for immediate corrections. Any reprisals for these actions will not be tolerated. The correction of problems, not the placing of blame, is the objective of the Battalion's safety program.

All personnel have an individual responsibility to observe precautions applicable to their task by using Risk management (RM). Be alert to your environment. Operations will be halted when they place personnel, facilities or equipment in danger. Notify the Chain of Command and the Safety Officer immediately. RM is equally important off-duty and should be incorporated in all facets of your life. Making sound decisions regarding safety both on and off-duty is directly linked to our mission accomplishment.

Preparing for combat is our mission. While certain training evolutions entail varying elements of risk, participation should not place Marines or Sailors in harm's way needlessly. Safety is an integral part of our mission. We must ensure all training is conducted safely while retaining the realism necessary to meet valid training objectives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Neikirk'.

**RICHARD P. NEIKIRK**  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer