



Headquarters Battalion Commander's Safety Policy

Every year the Marine Corps loses dozens of Marines and Sailors needlessly due to avoidable mishaps. Unfortunately, even in deployed combat environments, the number of non-combat injuries and deaths rivals those that occur from contact with the enemy. Okinawa presents its own unique hazards, from training in the jungle and extreme heat, to off-duty aquatic activities, a lowered drinking age, and unfamiliar traffic patterns.



The reality is that we have a dangerous occupation; our responsibility is to identify and minimize unnecessary risks whether in combat, training or off-duty. At times we will accept risk, even extreme risk, but it will be a conscious decision. We cannot accept risk simply as a matter of expediency, convenience or laziness. We will continue to train as we fight and balance realistic training objectives, and we will embed risk mitigation in everything that we do.

In most cases, risk mitigation boils down to the proper application of established techniques and procedures. As leaders, our obligation is to ensure proficiency in those specific techniques and procedures. If a procedure does not exist for a recurring dangerous activity, it is incumbent upon us to develop one and share it with the Battalion via the Safety Officer.

Do not forget that we work in a dangerous environment, therefore you must remain alert to safety considerations. Develop your ability to identify and mitigate risk because your fellow Marines and Sailors depend on you.

GILES R. BOYCE

Colonel

United States Marine Corps