



COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 13 COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON SAFETY



Every Marine and Sailor is a Safety Officer. Meaning, regardless of rank or grade, if you observe a situation that puts our Marines or Sailors at unnecessary risk, you have the authority and obligation to act. Our Marines and Sailors are the Battalion's most valuable asset and we must take all possible steps to ensure their welfare. We will approach safety through the four pillars of the Marine Corps Safety Management System (MCSM), Policy and Leadership, Risk Management, Safety Assurance, and Safety Promotion and Training using the Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle (PDCA).

Marines and Sailors, we're engaged in a dangerous, demanding business, and we do three fundamental things; we accomplish the mission, we build and sustain the operational readiness of our team through training and maintenance, and we take care of one another as a Naval family. Safety is a vital component of our ensuring we meet our three priorities, ***Mission Accomplishment, Readiness, and the welfare of our Marines and Sailors***, and it is a basic leadership responsibility.

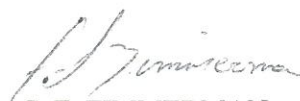
I expect leaders at every level to incorporate the MCSM into every event. Safety and Risk Management (RM) are integral parts of the planning process. The bottom line is that, for every unit activity, whether ground guiding or conducting a live fire exercise, we must identify risks, establish controls to reduce those risks, and provide deliberate safety supervision to ensure we operate at acceptable levels of risk. This emphasis on safety is not to soften training or make training less realistic. Leaders will conduct tough, realistic training that prepares the Battalion for combat.

I expect *every* Marine and Sailor to ensure safe practices are incorporated in their units and workspaces, and to eliminate unnecessary risks and hazards wherever they exist. I also expect every Marine and Sailor to demonstrate the critical leadership trait - judgment - in every environment: at sea, combat, training, garrison, and in their personal choices while on liberty at home and abroad. Sound individual judgment is critical to protecting every Marine and Sailor, and is a basic responsibility for everyone in our Battalion.

Off duty mishaps take a toll on our Marines, Sailors, and families. Think twice about your actions; ensure that you have taken all of the appropriate steps to protect yourself and the teammates with you.

Any injury or damage to equipment degrades our Battalion and our ability to do our mission. If you see an unsafe situation, you are obligated to act. As a team, we must look out for our brothers and sisters in arms. We must remain vigilant and watchful as mishaps occur when we least expect.

We will have a safety culture that encourages personnel to (1) report unsafe or unhealthful working conditions without fear of reprisal or adverse action; (2) promotes the importance of voluntary reporting of hazards and errors in order to improve our safety, (3) demonstrates willingness to learn from past mistakes and change procedures based on lessons learned and known hazards; and (4) empowers personnel to recommend procedural and behavioral changes within our unit. ***Remember, what you do matters and together we succeed.***


C. F. ZIMMERMAN
LtCol, USMC