UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS FORCES COMMAND
FORCE PRESERVATION POLICY STATEMENT

The safety of our Marines, Sailors, and Civilians is critical for every leader and unit in U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command (MARFORCOM). Safety is a habit and a mindset, it is the mark of a true professional. It is a mission-to-mission thought process that needs individual and collective attention at all times. Preserving our most valuable resource - the individual Marine, Sailor and Civilian, is our most significant responsibility to our country, to our Marine Corps, and to the Nation that expects us to be most ready when others are not. The enemies of safe practices are many. Complacency, anxiety, a lack of supervision, lethargy, forgetfulness, and over-zealousness are among them. They are a formidable team of opponents and can be lethal if left unaddressed by engaged leaders and unchecked in any environment. Our processes for hazard identification and risk mitigation must be continuous, must apply to all members of this command regardless of grade, experience, or billet, and must be enforced.

Behavioral health issues and preventable mishaps during operations, training, and recreation are quickly becoming our most dangerous enemies to readiness and force preservation. Non-hostile loss of life and serious injury is truly tragic, especially when preventable. The use of Operational Risk Management (ORM) is key to the safe conduct of any event, on or off duty. Adherence to common sense, standing operating procedures, and proven practices and techniques will ensure a professional climate of safety. Leaders and the Marines and Sailors they lead, must be educated on the issues that hinder force preservation objectives and our warfighting capability, both on and off duty. Leaders at every level - to include peer leaders - must ensure all Marines, Sailors, and Civilians are properly trained, educated, mentored; and all standards enforced on every mission incorporating continuous risk evaluation and mitigation, utilizing every tool at their disposal.

Risk management is both a combat multiplier and a force preservation mechanism. I demand leaders at all levels to develop, exemplify, and enforce a continuous safety mindset. Our people deserve nothing less - our Corps' legacy demands that every Marine remains ready for the fight. Enforce the standard of force preservation - remain ready and Semper Fidelis!

JOHN E. WISSLER
Lieutenant General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces Command