



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS FORCES COMMAND
FORCE PRESERVATION POLICY STATEMENT**

Force preservation is every action we take to keep each member of the command in the fight every day. The safety of our Marines, Sailors, and Civilians is fundamental to force preservation and critical for leaders at every level, to include peer leaders, in U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command. Safety is a habit and a mindset - it is the hallmark of a true professional. It is a continuous process of evaluation that demands individual and collective attention at all times. Preserving our most valuable resource - the individual Marine, Sailor, and Civilian, is our responsibility to each other, to the country, to our Marine Corps, each of which expects us to be most ready when others are not. The enemies of safe practices are many, to include: Complacency, anxiety, a lack of supervision, unpreparedness, lack of training, lethargy, forgetfulness, and over-zealousness. These are a formidable team of opponents and can be lethal if left unaddressed by engaged leaders, peers, and teammates. Our processes for hazard identification and risk mitigation must be continuous, must apply to all members of your command regardless of grade, experience, or billet, and must be enforced by every member of the command.

Non-hostile loss of life and serious injury is truly tragic: a loss to the Marine's family, his/her unit and his/her friends. Regardless the cause, from the pressures of behavioral health concerns to preventable training and recreational actions, we must rededicate ourselves to eliminating mishaps. The Operational Risk Management process will be the guiding "pre-operations" check for all units - prior to going to the field - no matter what size unit. The same process will be used by individuals and units prior to liberty and leave periods and every change of season, and the associated outdoor activities (skiing, boating, rafting, swimming, surfing, etc.), will be addressed by the chain of command.

As important to our commitment of taking care of seniors, juniors, and peers is the attention we each must pay to the changing conditions, attitudes, significant events, and stressors that affect us all. We are our fellow Marine's keeper and if he or she are acting out of character, you must do your part to alert the chain of command.

Risk management is both a combat multiplier and a force preservation mechanism. I expect leaders at all levels to develop, exemplify, and enforce a continuous force preservation 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 to fight and Semper Fidelis!

R. F. HEDELUND
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