



STATEMENT ON SAFETY AND FORCE PRESERVATION

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTALION FLEET MARINE FORCE, ATLANTIC MARINE FORCES COMMAND, MARINE FORCES NORTHERN COMMAND

Courage is the bedrock of our core values. Simply stated, it is the mental, moral, and physical strength that makes us each adhere to a higher standard and do what is correct, without cutting corners. It also means being selfless and taking care of others. Ensuring safety and maintaining force preservation are traits of a Marine who has embraced this core value. However, this core value applies to everyone.

Mishaps are typically committed by those ignorant of inherent risks and focused on immediate gratification, increasing the likelihood of hurting themselves or others, or otherwise wasting time and resources.

Safety and force preservation go hand in hand. They are not programs, but a mindset. It takes courage to challenge ourselves and others, fight complacency or a “just get it done” mentality.

Professionals are deliberate – they study the entire situation, estimate advantages, disadvantages, and risks, and then make decisions which accomplish the mission, preserve lives, and protect property.

I expect every Marine, Sailor, and civilian within this command to factor safety and force preservation into everything we do. I count on your training, experience, and involvement to find the proper balance between assuming risk and achieving breakthroughs.

Vigilance is the key to force preservation. Attention to changes in the environment – from gathering storm clouds to a fellow Marine, Sailor, or civilian who just doesn’t seem right – coupled with the moral courage to address an issue directly or to seek help before an issue becomes a crisis is everyone’s responsibility.

As professionals, we will go the extra mile to guard against recklessness. We will challenge ourselves and others to fight complacency, poor situational awareness, the urge to cut corners, moral weakness, or the overzealous attempt to complete a task by doing “whatever it takes”.

Our collective efforts to preserve our force take the strength and determination of every individual. Together we must thwart unsafe practices and make decisions that help ourselves and others to be morally, mentally and physically strong. This isn’t always easy and takes courage. Join me in this fight!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. M. Hermès'.

G. M. HERMÈS
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps