



## STATEMENT ON SAFETY AND FORCE PRESERVATION

### HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTALION FLEET MARINE FORCE, ATLANTIC U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES COMMAND



Bravery is a trait we Marines hold in highest regard, so our emphasis on safety might seem contradictory. The opposite of bravery is not safety but recklessness, which leads to unnecessary loss of life or limb, destruction of property or equipment, and other mission failure from thoughtlessness or willful disregard for force preservation. Bravery and safety are mutually supporting considerations which protect others and accomplish the mission on and off duty.

Safety is the mark of a professional, characterized by maturity, self-awareness, self-control, and moral and physical courage. 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. 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.

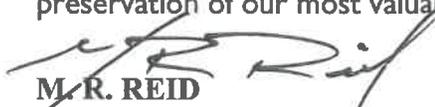
Our work as Marines is inherently dangerous. As professionals, however, we must proactively identify potential hazards, make sound risk mitigation decisions, and properly supervise all activities as we press ahead.

Safety and force preservation go hand in hand. Marines are trailblazers by nature, and it can be difficult knowing exactly how close to the edge one can get in the pursuit of exceeding expectations before people start getting hurt and things break. I therefore expect our leaders' full engagement to ensure we 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 and to mentor your junior Marines, Sailors, and civilians along the way.

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 will enable mission accomplishment, increase readiness, efficiency, and morale, and demonstrate our existence as a highly professional organization. Together we must follow and enforce safe practices and make decisions to reduce destructive behaviors both on duty and off. By doing the right things, in the right ways, for the right reasons, we will add to our Battalion's legacy of professional accomplishments and ensure the preservation of our most valuable resources for those who come after us.

  
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