



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

January 22, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Department of the Navy (DON) Safety Vision

The Naval Safety Strategy issued March 1, 2006 has served us well as we drove to meet Secretary of Defense mishap reduction guidance by the end of Fiscal Year 2008. It is now time to reflect on our progress and plot a course for the future, aimed at achieving world class safety – being the best military safety organization in the world. The new Safety Vision and implementation guidance set forth in the attachment includes critical initiatives and a cultural philosophy that will provide real benefits to the Nation as we fulfill our responsibility to maintain a mission-ready and capable Navy and Marine Corps. Safety and risk management are intrinsic to our ability to effectively prepare for and complete our mission whether at home or deployed in harms way. We will not accept unnecessary risk, nor will we condone any avoidable injury or loss of equipment as the cost of doing our business. Our people are our most precious asset and we owe them, their families, and loved ones our commitment to do all in our power to protect their well being.

The attached DON Safety Vision and implementing guidance is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all that needs to be done to ensure safety across the Department. Rather it should serve as a roadmap for individual commands to implement, track, and refine their safety program and unit-level safety culture.

Support for the attainment of the attached Safety Vision is necessary and appreciated. Echelon II Commanders shall ensure plans are formulated by their respective commands to achieve the attached safety vision. Each Service's Executive Safety Board shall annually review Echelon II plans and progress to include a review of those metrics chosen to measure success. We will continue to assess current safety performance at each monthly Secretary of the Navy Management Review.

James T. Conway  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps

G. Roughead  
Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Chief of Naval Operations

Donald C. Winter  
Secretary of the Navy

Attachment:  
As stated

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## **DON Safety Vision**

Department of the Navy (DON) Safety enhances mission readiness by preventing mishaps through aggressive leadership, safe and reliable equipment, adequate resource allocation, effective training, accountability, and proven risk management principles. In order to realize this vision, Department of Navy organizations and personnel shall:

- Integrate safety into all on- and off-duty activities, work processes, and weapon system designs to enhance mission readiness, capability, and accomplishment.
- Imbed safety culture into the total force (military, civilians, and contractors), with accountability and involvement at all levels, through the adoption of a Safety Management System.
- Facilitate continuous improvement in safety performance by managing hazards, mitigating risk, and implementing actions to reduce mishaps, through the use of annual safety program self-assessments.
- Maintain effective safety monitoring and performance measuring systems that support senior leadership and unit-specific metrics, data analysis for root causes and development of mitigation strategies.
- Employ new technology and the latest management tools to facilitate individual and unit safety awareness and ownership.
- Aggressively and transparently communicate safety successes, share hazard awareness and share near-miss lessons learned.
- Enable safety performance by developing and maintaining a workforce of talented and skilled safety personnel, both military and civilian, that supports the seamless integration of safety into all work processes, products, and operations.