



COMMANDING GENERAL'S POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFETY



Marine Corps Installations West Bases and Stations are the host and deployment platforms for supporting the First Marine Expeditionary Force and the training activities of the U.S. Marine Corps. We must lead the supporting establishment for our Corps by facilitating mission success of our partners in the Operating Forces, tenant commands, and activities. That purpose and the continued safety of our Marines, Sailors, Civilian Marines, and family members are our reason for existence.

Our nation, the Department of Defense, and the Marine Corps are continuously evolving and changing. We must take ownership of our mission to be an agent and catalyst for change and efficiency in supporting our Marine Corps and preserving our force.

To affect change, we must modify how we view safety, Operational Risk Management (ORM), and Force Preservation. Safety is a one-day-at-a-time, day-after day challenge and journey. We owe it to the Marine Corps and each other to win this fight each day, every day, and pass this philosophy and legacy on to our replacements. Safety and ORM must be an integral part of on and off duty routines. We are all “each other’s keeper.” It is our duty to know and follow the rules, to check our assumptions, to build in margins of safety and to “war game/what if?” our plans.

There is no single solution for force preservation and safety. We must employ the full range of tools available to us and incorporate the lessons from mistakes/failures (ours and others). ORM is a process of hazard identification and risk mitigation that results in informed decisions at the appropriate level. Proactive ORM, coupled with solid leadership, must be implemented at all levels and integrated in all processes. We must employ ORM during the planning, execution, and after action phases of all of our activities and support - both on and off duty. Whether planning a high risk training exercise or taking a well deserved road trip with the family on leave, **ORM MUST be a part of the process.**

Safety is a “VALUE” rather than a priority. Priorities change – values do not. Safety is grounded in good leadership and followership, well thought out plans and SOPs, discipline, and training. It is our mandate and goal to preserve our force and prevent mishaps by embracing ORM and promoting safe practices - both on and off duty.

Semper Fidelis,

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Commanding General
Marine Corps Installations West