

## Tenets of Safety

In the beginning of 2008 the Commandant challenged the NCOs of the Marine Corps to take charge of vehicle safety with White Letter No. 02-08. The NCOs of Infantry Training Battalion West took it a step further.

“Tenets of Safety”, a short video produced by ITB West, in conjunction with Training Command, was initiated to prepare Marines’, Corps wide, for liberty.

The Tenets of Safety program was tailored to create a holistic approach to safety utilizing the familiar 5-3-5 concept that General Mattis developed for combat operations. Just like the original 5-3-5, the Tenets of Safety incorporates Pre and Post actions.

Also included in the Tenets of Safety is Habits of Action: Protection, Execution, and Cooperation. A habit of action is something that is done automatically, without thinking. The NCOs of ITB seek to inculcate a similar reaction or habits for Marines in training or on liberty.

The last portion is Habits of Thought: Training, relative safety, using Sound Judgment Games, understanding the consequences of actions, and harnessing the experience of all involved.

Every Marine patrol gets briefed prior to departing friendly lines. The brief is typically a product of the acronym BAMCIS: our basic planning process. All Marines know this acronym.

The safety NCOs of ITB have developed another acronym to be referenced by a Marine when he secures for liberty: THINK.

- Think about the risks
- Have a plan
- Initiate the plan
- Navigate the risks
- Know the consequences

ITB has seen great success utilizing this approach to safety. Just like any program, it requires strong leadership. Nothing will replace leadership as the primary means of accomplishing our mission.

More information is available at

<http://www.marines.mil/units/hqmc/tecom/soiwest/Pages/welcome.aspx>