

# **26th Marine Expeditionary Unit**

## **Safety Management System Policy**

***Safety shall not be sacrificed for the sake of expediency or convenience...  
We are an elite rapid response force with a culture of operational excellence,  
versatility, efficiency, risk management, and combat readiness.***



### **POLICY LETTER 08-20**

From: Commanding Officer

To: 26th MEU Personnel

Subj: COMMANDING OFFICER'S SAFETY POLICY

- ➊ We are a warfighting organization with a 50+ year legacy of being an elite rapid response force with a culture that promotes operational excellence, versatility, efficiency, and risk management. Moreover, our performance as a premier MAGTF has marked the 26th MEU as "A Certain Force in an Uncertain World".
- ➋ Our primary purpose as a Marine Expeditionary Unit is to be Ready, Relevant, and Capable of aggregating forces quickly to deploy with limited notice and to Fight and Win in any clime or place. This is an inherently dangerous business; however, safety is a byproduct of our deliberate or rapid response planning and operational excellence. Simply stated, as disciplined professionals, we identify potential hazards; quickly and accurately assess the risk to both force and to the mission; and appropriately implement controls to mitigate the risk to an acceptable level...this is an iterative and continuous process...and it is a part of our mindset ON/OFF duty.
- ➌ We are warriors with a bias for action – we don't waste time and can't afford to procrastinate. Procrastination increases risks and negatively impacts our readiness because it artificially compresses timelines, forces missed opportunities, reduces decision space, increases stress, and results in a less than optimal work environment.
- ➍ We are disciplined and professional warriors; we don't cut corners. Safety shall not be sacrificed for the sake of expediency or convenience – do it right the first time. Our success depends on our disciplined and professional approach to warfighting. There are no short cuts to by-the-book maintenance following published Technical Manuals, strict adherence to our SOPs, and obeying the law in garrison or while deployed. Cutting corners incurs unacceptable risks and will not be tolerated. If you need more time or assistance in accomplishing an assigned task, speak up. We will foster and maintain a culture of "normalized excellence" where risk management permeates everything – training, combat, and our day-to-day ON/OFF duty activities.
- ➎ Executive Officers and OICs are directly responsible for the supervision and execution of the unit's Safety Management System; however, force preservation, safety, and risk management requires our collective efforts. Every member of the 26th MEU, regardless of rank or position, is a "safety officer" with a moral and professional obligation to identify and correct any unsafe situation...ON/OFF duty. Per the governing orders, everyone has a duty to notify the command of any unsafe or hazardous situation directly or via the "Anonymous".
- ➏ A properly integrated Safety Management System (Safety Program) is a force multiplier – our Safety Management System is governed by MCO 5100.29C. The goal of our Safety Management System is to eliminate all preventable ON/OFF duty MISHAPS. Preserving the force and our equipment is critically important to our combat readiness and our ability to accomplish our mission.

Semper Fidelis!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.W. Sampson".

Colonel D.W. Sampson, USMC

Commanding Officer, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

