



## 26TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT COMMANDING OFFICER POLICY STATEMENT



### SAFETY

***INTENT: The 26 MEU Team will safeguard our Marines, Sailors, and our equipment from avoidable injury, death, and damage. Through disciplined application of operational risk management processes, we will make identifying and mitigating risk reflexive and inherent to all of our training, operations, and off-duty activities.***

As a MAGTF, operating in hazardous conditions is inherent to many of the missions we will undertake. Additionally, 'running to the sound of guns' is in our institutional and individual DNA as Marines. However, blindly stumbling into danger is not only foolish, it is also counter to our responsibility as Marines to safeguard the sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, and equipment the American public has entrusted to our Corps for appropriate employment in defense of our Nation's interests.

Although hazards will be present in many of our missions, our challenge is to appropriately identify and mitigate them so the actual risk they create for our Marines and Sailors is reduced to the lowest possible level. This same mindset of hazard identification and risk mitigation must apply to both our garrison and our off-duty activities.

As the Commanding Officer, I am committed to ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all Marines, Sailors, and family members. I may have to ask you to go into harm's way, but my pledge to you is that I will not allow reckless execution or cavalier attitudes to put you at unnecessary risk. Avoidable injuries, death, and damage to equipment not only degrade our operational readiness but are also morally reprehensible. In combat, we will reduce risk to the lowest possible level commensurate with mission necessity. In training, if attempting the mission creates unacceptable risk, we will stop, reassess, reset, and only reattempt training when we have appropriately mitigated the risk.

Marines and Sailors of all ranks must enforce our safety program and promote safe practices during all operations and training. Train your Teammates to use operational risk management (ORM) to recognize and reduce risk. I charge and empower anyone to make the "time out" call if they observe any unsafe condition or act, both on- or off-duty. Often, it only takes one courageous individual to say "this isn't a good idea" to break the flawed groupthink that is a pre-condition for many avoidable mishaps.

Our Safety Officer is Master Sergeant Emanuel L. Nanjejackson at (910) 451-0421. Contact him without fear of reprisal if you observe any unsafe condition or act, or have recommendations to improve our unit's safety posture.

  
J. B. REID  
COMMANDING OFFICER

  
C. R. TAYLOR  
SERGEANT MAJOR