

**COMMANDING GENERAL
I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Safety Policy**



I need each and every one of you on the Team and in the fight.

I Marine Expeditionary Force holds a special place within our Corps, and a rich history of success in combat and peacetime. Our rich legacy was inherited from the generations of Marines who came before us. This legacy was forged by the principles that define us as Marines, beginning with our unwavering commitment to professional conduct. Safety is at the heart of that professional conduct, with further linkages to full-spectrum readiness and operational excellence.

An unblinking focus on safety does not stop at the gate or when we are off duty. Our actions, at all times, must reflect our individual and collective professionalism – our nation and our fellow citizens expect nothing less. Safety is a byproduct of professional conduct and sound decision making. A unit culture that places a premium on safety at every level coupled with a mindset of being always “switched on” when it comes to the environment in which you are operating is the only way to mitigate the threats we are exposed to every day.

Risk manifests itself as complacency, deviation from procedures, and apathy. We must hold ourselves and each other to account; strict adherence and compliance with established regulations, guidance, and training denies the threat a foothold in our mindset and actions. Leaders must equip and empower our Marines and Sailors to identify hazards and mitigate risk with sound decisions irrespective of operational complexity.

I charge all members of the I MEF team to take a stand and intervene when questionable circumstances arise. An unidentified hazard is an unmitigated risk, if you see something – say something. This is the epitome of courage! Intervention is an obligation to prevent a mishap, and requires the fortitude to speak up, usually among peers, and against popular opinion.

I MEF remains forward deployed around the globe and the stakes are high. Our warfighting readiness is built on the professional conduct that keeps our honor clean and preserves combat power in order to fight and win. This demands an “All Hands” effort!

Semper Fidelis,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. W. Smith, Jr.'.

G. W. SMITH, JR.

**Lieutenant General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
I Marine Expeditionary Force**