



# SPMAGTF-CR-CC Commanding Officer's Statement on Safety



Marines and Sailors assigned to the SPMAGTF-CR-CC, we face the world's greatest occupational hazard: combat. In preparing for, and actions during combat, we seek to instill an aggressive mindset in our Marines and accept measured risk as a necessary investment in achieving the rewards of tactical success. As aggressive as we are required to be in battle, we must be equally aggressive in making our training as safe as it can be made, without deviating from standards and while preserving the realism required for quality training. Safety is not paramount, but it must be one of the foremost considerations when leaders are preparing to train their men and women. Every risk must be examined to determine how we can minimize it, while preserving the overall intent of the training.

**We do not prioritize safety over all else; rather, we strive to create the most realistic combat training possible while aggressively mitigating the associated hazards to our Marines and Sailors. This is not easy, but it is required and attainable.**

By our nature, Marines are aggressive and prone to risky actions and behavior both on and off duty. As a SPMAGTF and as a Corps, we have routinely lost more men and women to off-duty accidents than we have lost in combat. The real tragedy of this historical reality is that many of those deaths could have been prevented by adherence to a few basic safety rules and standards of conduct. We must pledge ourselves to do better in this regard. Leaders at every level must mentor their Marines and Sailors to make better decisions regarding driving, and undertaking activities that the Marine or Sailor is not prepared for.

Over the last several decades, the Marine Corps has dramatically improved the tools and programs supporting both on-duty and off-duty safety. MCO 5100.29B and its supporting orders/policies issue direction, guidance and frameworks that have been thoroughly tested over time, providing us the best opportunity to conduct realistic combat training while minimizing risk. Additionally, these orders include policies for our work spaces and for off-duty pursuits to address the hazards and risks we face on a day-to-day basis. These tools and programs work, but must be thoroughly understood and implemented to be effective. Specifically, within SPMAGTF-CR-CC, we will:

Incorporate hazard awareness training and Risk Management as routine in all training, tactical operations and off-duty recreational planning.

1. Ensure all leaders are aware of NTV training requirements regardless if they are a driver or not and ensure Marines and Sailors receive the required training
2. Conduct Force Preservation Councils on a monthly basis to identify at risk personnel and ensure they receive the appropriate leadership and assistance
3. Ensure that all safety related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are understood and followed. If SOPs are lacking, implement or modify them to mitigate assessed hazards.

The Marines and Sailors of this SPMAGTF are our most precious asset. As we prepare for and operate in the challenges of combat, we must continuously protect our Marines and Sailors through the proper implementation of our safety programs. Nothing less is acceptable.

Christopher D. Gideons  
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Commanding Officer