



I Marine Expeditionary Force Safety Policy

"A safe unit is a lethal unit."

I MEF is a globally responsive, expeditionary, and fully scalable warfighting organization. As the Marine Corps' premier Marine Air Ground Task Force, I MEF stands ready to deploy and operate in every clime and place at a moment's notice. To do this, I MEF personnel need to train for and retain the agility, flexibility, and capability to accomplish the mission regardless of the contingency. The ability to execute and accomplish the mission requires a high degree of readiness and depends upon the proactive preservation of our personnel, their families, and our equipment. Unnecessary loss of life, injury to personnel, or damage to equipment is unacceptable. Such mishaps degrade our combat readiness and reduce our potency as a warfighting force.

The Marine Corps is renowned for its professionalism as a fighting force, and safe practices should be naturally inherent within all we do. Professionalism dictates we follow and adhere to useful tools such as standard operating procedures, letters of instruction, formal training, and risk management. As a professional force, we apply risk management principles to all tasks regardless of their apparent routine nature. I challenge leaders at every level to ensure all members of his or her command are empowered to make timely risk decisions and to voice their concern when questionable circumstances arise. Unmitigated risk to I MEF personnel will not be tolerated.

I expect my commanders to instill and foster a command climate that promotes a vibrant safety program. A healthy safety program encourages open dialogue among ranks, which portends preventing mishaps vice reacting to mishaps. Leaders also need to ensure our Marines and Sailors are equipped with sound decision-making skills. Fostering these skills positively influences our ability to exercise sound judgment both on and off duty. It is essential that we remain aware of the Blue Threat—the threat we pose to ourselves—which is ever present. The Blue Threat often lays in wait for an opportune and unsuspecting time to strike. Off-duty vehicular mishaps, both automobile and motorcycle, top our list of concerns. These mishaps are often the result of excessive speed, fatigue, alcohol use, recklessness, and failure to wear a seat belt. We must remain vigilant in identifying the hazards in our surroundings, and keep safety at the forefront of our daily routine.

A proactive safety posture preserves the force, ensures our combat readiness, and is an effective force multiplier. As a result, our focus on safety is an all-hands effort. I need each and every Marine and Sailor in I MEF to be at his or her best. I am confident through professional practices and engaged leadership that each one of us can ensure we maintain a safe and combat ready force. Be smart, be vigilant, and stay safe.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. L. Osterman".

J. L. OSTERMAN
Lieutenant General, USMC
Commanding General
I Marine Expeditionary Force