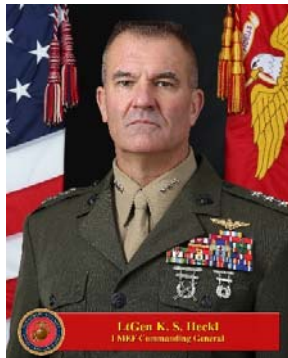


# **COMMANDING GENERAL I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE Safety Policy**



*Professionalism is not an option – it is a fundamental precondition for success.*

We are a renowned professional warfighting force identified by our unrivaled accomplishments, commitment to excellence, and an elevated standard of integrity. Professionalism is a mindset, and is the cornerstone which exemplifies a fully capable and ready unit keenly poised for mission execution on a moment's notice. Safety is a byproduct of this professionalism and is not an afterthought or a last minute check-in-the-box. Leaders at every level must endeavor to be a consummate professional to effectively and safely lead those under their charge in all we do, both on and off duty.

Engaged and concerned leadership ensures a highly motivated, well-trained, and mission focused unit is professionally prepared to execute their mission through strict adherence to directives and published guidance. Preparation breeds professionalism, and professionalism enhances leadership competencies. Effective leaders ensure compliance to SOPs, TTPs, and checklists which assures a high state of readiness and is an integral component that distinguishes exemplary units from the pack. Compliance safeguards against complacency and deviant or risky behavior which can quickly spread within any unit with unforeseen consequences. A command culture which personifies a professional and compliance-based approach negates this "Blue Threat" essentially minimizing risk to both personnel and equipment while bolstering morale, readiness, and our warfighting capability.

We recognize there are inherent hazards and accompanying risk in all we do. As leaders, we need to empower our Marines and Sailors to manage, control, and mitigate risk with timely and appropriate risk decisions regardless of operational complexity. Capable leaders foster a sound decision-making skillset addressing the daily challenges while on duty or liberty. With respect to hazards, if you see something, say something. An unidentified hazard is an unmitigated risk. The need to intervene cannot be overstated. Intervention is oftentimes the last opportunity for direct and immediate action required to halt an ongoing mishap chain of events. Intervention necessitates command support as well as the courage to speak up; especially among peers or when it is counter to popular opinion.

Effective leadership involves time, commitment, and a genuine selfless concern for others. It is our leaders who define us and guide us towards making a positive impact in all we endeavor. I challenge each one of us to lead by example, to be both vigilant and yet aggressive in our actions, and to do the right thing, at the right time and place, for the right reason. A high bar is set and this is a leadership challenge we should all nobly accept. Lastly, professionalism implies mission first - safety always. Be smart, be safe, take care of each other, and be prepared to make a difference.

*Semper Fidelis,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. S. Heckl". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

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