



Marine Air Control Group 38 Commander's Safety and Force Preservation Policy



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Marines and Sailors are our most precious and valuable resource. In peacetime, no piece of equipment, no training event, and no exercise outweighs the worth of a human life. This policy is grounded in Marine Corps Orders and directives, including MCO 5100.29C - Marine Corps Safety Management System (MCSMS), and reflects our enduring obligation to safeguard the lives of Marines and Sailors while ensuring readiness for combat.

Guiding Principles

- a. **Trust** – Trust is the foundation of our Corps. Our Nation entrusts us with its defense; Marines must trust their leaders to set conditions for safe, effective training; and leaders must trust their Marines to exercise sound judgment in executing tasks. Violations of that trust—whether through neglect of safety standards or failure to care for one another—undermine our warfighting ethos.
- b. **Commitment** – Commitment binds us to one another and to mission accomplishment. Commitment to safety is not a separate function; it is integral to how we train, fight, and preserve combat power. Every Marine has a role in the Safety Management System, from commanders tailoring safety programs to their mission to individual Marines employing proper procedures and protective equipment.
- c. **Risk Management** – Risk is inherent in military operations and training. MCO 5100.29C establishes risk management as a commander's tool to balance mission accomplishment with force preservation. Risk cannot be eliminated, but it must be identified, assessed, and controlled at the proper level of command.

Policy

- All subordinate commands will execute the MCSMS. Commanders at every echelon are responsible for tailoring safety programs to their unique mission requirements while upholding service-wide standards.
- Leaders will establish and maintain safety councils or equivalent forums to ensure hazards are identified, risks mitigated, and lessons shared.
- Safety Officers and safety personnel will receive proper training and maintain required documentation. Commanders will ensure their Marines are equipped, trained, and empowered to implement risk management in every evolution.
- Marines at every level are responsible for following SOPs, using and inspecting PPE, and reporting unsafe conditions or near misses without fear of reprisal. This honest feedback is part of the trust we owe one another.

Our unit's strength lies in mutual trust and unbreakable commitment to each other. This includes a solemn obligation to preserve the force in peacetime so that we are ready and able to answer the Nation's call in war. I expect leaders to set the example, Marines to hold one another accountable, and every member of this formation to see safety not as a restraint but as a combat multiplier. We will manage risk, protect one another, and remain ready for the demands of combat.

Semper Fidelis,

E.J. O'Connell
Colonel, USMC
Commanding Officer