

**Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Detachment Fort Leonard Wood
Policy Statement on Safety**

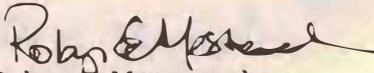
Marine Corps Detachment Fort Leonard Wood is entrusted with the immense responsibility of continuing the transformation for young men and women who volunteered to become United States Marines. This road to transformation is laden with potential hazards. Members of this Team often work long hours, sometimes in extreme conditions. You participate in training events on a regular basis that may cause grave harm. Students' lack of experience and unpredictability further exacerbate an already challenging task and heighten the need for us all to remain vigilant at all times.

I ask for your help to ensure that we are strengthening a culture across the Detachment where risk management and force preservation principles are fully integrated into mission execution. Attention to risk mitigation should reside at all levels of our training and enable ownership by every person on the Team, from the most junior Marine to the most senior, every Sailor, and every Civilian. Force preservation concepts should enhance combat readiness and reduce hazards during all activities, whether we are conducting training or spending time off-duty with friends and family. Consider in everything we do that:

- All activities have risks
- All risks can be managed
- All mishaps can be averted
- All personnel are accountable

Do not ever assume more risk than your chain of command is willing to assume. There is nothing we do, no schedule we follow, no event so critical or situation so urgent that warrants unnecessary risk to your safety or that of another human being. Our efforts to manage hazards, diminish risk, and exercise care in the performance of our duties may at times seem routine or tedious, but safety best practices and standard operating procedures prevent injury, protect finite resources, and save Marines' lives.

We must be thoughtful, deliberate, and committed to combatting the needless loss of life and injury due to mishaps on and off duty. Be aware of what is going on around you. Identify potential hazards and consider every option to mitigate them. Take decisive action to minimize the likelihood of a safety mishap. Enlist the assistance of those around you to strengthen your situational awareness. Be cognizant of the physical and mental state of your fellow Marines and the students we train. Take care of Our Team.


Robyn D. Mestemacher
Commanding Officer

Marine Corps Detachment Fort Leonard Wood Safety Officer
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