Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Detachment Fort Leonard Wood
Policy Statement on Safety
August 2026

There is no greater responsibility, and no source of deeper personal pride, than the mission we execute here at Marine Corps Detachment Fort Leonard Wood. We are trusted to mold the character, discipline, and warfighting spirit of young Americans. In executing this mission, safety is not a competing priority or a separate administrative program; it is synonymous with operational excellence. As your Commanding Officer, I view safety as a fundamental warfighting enabler and a direct reflection of our leadership and professionalism.

Our mission requires us to operate in demanding environments, particularly as we pioneer interservice training and implement critical modernization efforts. Working alongside our joint partners introduces unique complexities. As we modernize our training pipelines to meet future threats, our approach to safety must evolve as well. **Innovation cannot outpace force preservation.** Sound risk management must be continuously applied during the planning and execution of all academic and technical qualifications and interservice training, ensuring our training remains rigorous, realistic, and safe.

To that end, I expect every member of this command to embrace a culture where risk mitigation is owned by everyone. The following principles guide that culture:

- **Operational Excellence requires Safety.** You cannot achieve one without the other.
- **All risks can be managed** through deliberate planning and modernization of our standard operating procedures.
- **Every team member is empowered.** From the most junior Marine to our senior Civilian teammates, you are expected to identify, report, and correct hazards without fear of reprisal.
- **All personnel are accountable.** We are all responsible for the physical and mental well-being of the team.

Remember that no timeline, training objective, or modernization milestone is ever worth compromising your well-being or that of your teammates. I ask that you ***never*** accept more risk than leadership has deliberately authorized. Instead, approach your daily duties with a mindful, deliberate focus on protecting one another. True success comes from stepping in when you see a hazard, relying on the strength of those around you, and treating the safety of our team as our most sacred obligation.

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