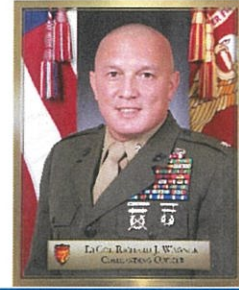




III MEF Support Battalion Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on *Safety*



Safety begins and ends with **engaged leadership**, **operational excellence**, and the **consummate professional**. Due to our unique mission, we must continuously reinforce the importance of safety and risk management throughout our Battalion, and recognize these factors as essential elements inherent in a successful organization. A culture of safety is a team effort and the responsibility of every member of this command. I expect every leader within III MEF Support Battalion to foster a command climate which promotes safety, preserves our warfighting assets, and strengthens our operational readiness.

I expect leaders at all levels to apply risk management techniques that allow us to conduct realistic and challenging training to increase our warfighting readiness – while mitigating risk to our Marines and Sailors. Proactive, engaged, and observant leadership is essential to the safe execution of our mission. Leadership should encourage all personnel to identify and communicate hazards up and down the chain of command, and reinforce a culture that expects and encourages honest reporting of hazards, errors, and near-misses.

There is no task in this Battalion that is so important that it must be executed at the expense of safe and sound operating procedures. Whether on or off duty, at home, or on liberty, our professionalism, and pursuit of operational excellence demands that safe and sound practices are followed.

My safety policy is built on four pillars and must be applied to your daily activities on and off duty:

- **Policy and Leadership** – At the most fundamental level, correct policy matched with leader engagement will create the reporting culture required to improve readiness and prevent mishaps.
- **Risk Management** – Leaders must embed the Risk Management process into day-to-day operations, deliberate planning processes, and most importantly into the mindset Marines apply to warfighting.
- **Safety Assurance** – The evaluation, review, and monitoring of activities to assure that all elements of the Marine Corps Safety Management System are being implemented, and guide continuous improvement efforts.
- **Safety Promotion and Training** – The communication, training, and other actions that create a positive safety culture across our Battalion.

Our success as a Battalion depends on the capable and competent actions of aggressive individuals working together as a team to accomplish the mission. As stewards of the Nation's most important resource – its sons and daughters – we must effectively manage risk in every decision we make. The resultant effect of our efforts will ensure that the dynamic environment in which we operate is inherently safe. All hands must assume their share of responsibility, and when the time comes to correct a problem, each of us should work diligently to fix it. I need every Marine, Sailor, civilian Marine, and contractor to be a Safety Officer, and to step-up and stop or correct any unsafe activity. For all of us, dedicated, engaged leadership, and resolute vigilance is the key to mishap-free mission execution in all we do. Any questions regarding the Battalion safety program can be addressed by the Safety Officer at DSN 623-1527. And remember, take care of each other and everything else will take care of itself.

Semper Fidelis,

Richard J. Wagner
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
III MEF Support Battalion