COMMANDING OFFICER'S
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

The mission of the Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) is to train Marines, DoD personnel, and allied forces to operate in mountainous, high altitude and cold weather environments. We provide a unique environment and training opportunity that challenges units across the warfighting functions.

The natural environment at the MWTC is crucial to attaining our training objectives. The MWTC training environment includes public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other regulatory agencies. These lands are also open to the public for many different recreational activities and multiple uses. Public outreach and coordination with the appropriate management agencies are key elements for sustaining our mission capability, now and in the future.

To ensure continued readiness, safeguard land use availability, ensure proper environmental ethics and to protect the health and safety of all those who train, work or visit the MWTC, I am committed to:

Complying with our Nation's environmental laws and regulations – The costs of non-compliance can include loss of training areas, impaired relations with regulatory and public communities, and inefficient use of fiscal and manpower resources.

Conserving the natural resources for which we are responsible – Continued partnerships with the public, the Forest Service, tribal partners, management agencies and others facilitates continued shared use of mission-critical training lands. Protecting the natural resources, cultural resource sites, Native American and pre-historic heritage, and the habitat and wildlife in the areas we operate are paramount priorities we should embrace as Marines and American Citizens.

Emphasizing pollution prevention – Identifying and implementing appropriate pollution prevention techniques minimizes environmental liabilities and reduces the volume, costs, and potential impact associated with the management of our waste streams.

Continuing to clean up contaminated sites – Responsible clean up of contaminants associated with past actions enhances the quality of training lands and promotes good will between the Marine Corps, the public and our partners. We will strive to not only meet but exceed all of our regulatory requirements.

To balance mission needs with environmental performance, the MWTC has an Environmental Management System (EMS). The EMS is used to systematically integrate environmental considerations and accountability into day-to-day operations and long-term planning. We are focused on minimizing the environmental impacts of our activities and reducing our risks to mission. Our EMS is designed to sustain and ultimately enhance training and access to training lands through a process of continual improvement.

I expect all Marines, Sailors, and civilians operating aboard the MWTC to participate in the EMS, practice good environmental stewardship and take care of the lands and environment which we are responsible for and where we operate.

S.D. LEONARD
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Mountain Warfare Training Center