
Commander's Safety Statement and Policy

Our mission at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) is to develop, deliver and assess professional military mountaineering training through Service Level Training and Formal School programs to prepare leaders to meet the challenges of the national security environment; and to preserve, promote and display the history and heritage of the Marine Corps "...In Any Clime or Place".

Due to our unique mission, we must continuously reinforce the importance of safety among all MWTC staff and students. The relative remoteness of our training environment could cause us to become complacent, but prudence dictates that we must remain constantly vigilant with regard to safety. It is our responsibility to provide the Corps and our nation with knowledgeable, well-trained and professional Mountain Leaders and units. Assuring that our staff and students return to the fleet safely is an implied task in making good on our promise to, "prepare leaders to meet the challenges of the national security environment."



Safety must be of paramount importance to every Marine, other service member and civilian at MWTC while performing our respective day to day tasks in support of the operational fleet forces. Furthermore, we must also be diligent regarding safety during off-duty hours. Leadership is a key element in establishing a culture of safety. All levels of the chain of command must stress safety to the personnel in their charge and ensure it is incorporated into unit culture.

The Commandant has decreed that all Marines and Civilian Marines shall employ a range of tools to positively affect force preservation. Risk mitigation is one of the primary means available to eliminate the senseless loss of life and injury, both on-duty and on liberty. MWTC leaders will ensure risk mitigation is employed when accomplishing daily tasks and when those in their charge are planning off-duty activities. Furthermore, the safety programs implemented by MWTC will aggressively pursue the reduction of incidents on and off duty through the implementation of risk mitigation measures, comprehensive safety training and education, oversight by leaders and accountability.

Among the wide range of safety concerns, private motor vehicle (PMV) safety must remain a primary focus of attention. Historically, too many Marines and other service members have been lost or injured in preventable PMV accidents. Leaders will diligently adhere to PMV safety program measures and regulations. When operating a vehicle it is every driver and passenger's responsibility to take care of each other by adhering to speed limits, demanding responsible driving, and ensuring all passengers are wearing seat belts. Do not drink and drive or get in a vehicle with a driver that has been drinking: use your common sense and chain-of-command to get a taxi ride safely home, as circumstances dictate.

Lastly, every decision you make affects not only you, but your loved ones and fellow warriors, as well. I need every Marine, other service member and Civilian Marine to be a safety officer and step up to stop any unsafe activity. Your diligence and proactive actions could save the life of a fellow service member. Per MCO 5100.29B (Para. 4.b.13.a), this policy letter shall be published throughout the command. Questions or concerns can be directed to the MWTC Safety Representative Mr. Matt Meyer at 760-590-2744.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S.D. LEONARD".

S.D. LEONARD

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