

COMMANDING OFFICER'S SAFETY POLICY

Normalization of Deviation had become standard practice: This is the lead line in both space shuttle accident investigations. By the mid-eighties NASA's culture had become focused on shuttle launches at the expense of human life by violating fundamental safety principles. Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany is a key location allowing our tenants to equip and sustain Marines and operations throughout the globe. Safety is critical to mission success. We cannot succeed unless we jealously guard our precious resources: our people, our equipment, and our facilities. That means we must include risk management as part of every task, process, and operation -both on duty and after-hours.



Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany exists to provide support services that enable our tenants to accomplish their mission to equip the Marine Warfighter. Safety is critical to mission success. We cannot succeed unless we jealously guard our precious resources: our people, our equipment, and our facilities. That means we must include risk management as part of every task, process, and operation - both on duty and after-hours. In my command, safety is equal in importance to production, schedule, and cost.

Mishap prevention is a shared responsibility between individuals and their leader. Creating a positive safety culture rests with my subordinate leadership and me. To achieve this culture, I expect the following from every member in this command:

- Be your brother's keeper. MCDP 1-0 makes it clear: *Marines (and Civilian Marines) Take Care of Their Own*
- Be courageous to set and enforce tough and sometimes unpopular standards.
- Hold each other accountable for violations of safety standards.
- Keep our work areas free of hazards through good housekeeping, thorough inspections, and reporting near misses.
- Control the threats to your safety and health: rushing, frustration, fatigue, distraction, and complacency.
- Do not accept or take shortcuts due to operating tempo. Follow the JHA for the task and the deliberate risk management process for non-routine operations.
- Use the safety resources provided by your leaders and pay attention during safety training so you can learn correct safety practices.

Private motor vehicle mishaps are the leading cause of death to Marines. Speeding distracted driving, driving fatigued, DUI, riding without motorcycle protective gear, and failing to wear seatbelts are rogue behaviors and indicate a lack of self-discipline. First-line Marine leaders will teach Marines the fundamentals of risk assessment and help them create a plan to eliminate the risk.

You are officially appointed as the safety officer for those around you. You are authorized to challenge, stop, or raise the issue to your supervisor or union representative whenever you believe an unsafe action is about to occur.

MCLB Albany has one of the most comprehensive and credible mishap prevention programs in the DoD. We have received numerous awards for our command safety program and have earned the prestigious designation as an OSHA Voluntary Protection Program Star worksite. I am committed to continuously improving our safety program to keep MCLB Albany the safest installation in the Marine Corps to work, live, and visit.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Fitzgerald'. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL J. FITZGERALD
COLONEL, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING OFFICER
MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE ALBANY