



COMMANDING OFFICER'S COMMITMENT TO THE VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM (VPP)



As Commanding Officer, I am proud to lead a command that has been a VPP Star Worksite for more than ten years, a distinction that reflects the sustained excellence, dedication, and discipline of every Marine, Sailor, and civilian in our ranks. This recognition is not simply an achievement; it is a responsibility and a promise we will continue to uphold every day.

Our commitment to the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) is absolute. It is rooted in our responsibility to protect one another and sustained by a culture where safety and health are embedded in everything we do. We will maintain and strengthen a comprehensive safety and health management system grounded in its core elements: leadership commitment, employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and safety and health training.

Leadership engagement is essential to our success. Leaders at every level will remain present, accountable, and actively involved in nurturing an environment of trust, transparency, and open communication. Every member of this command is expected to take ownership of safety by identifying hazards, raising concerns, and contributing to solutions that protect the force and strengthen our mission.

We will continuously examine our workplaces with discipline and purpose, identifying hazards and implementing effective controls that reduce risk and safeguard our personnel. Through deliberate planning, sound processes, and shared responsibility, we will sustain a workplace where safety and operational excellence go hand in hand.

Training is the foundation upon which this program stands. We will ensure our personnel are prepared, informed, and confident in their ability to perform their duties safely. Knowledge, proficiency, and vigilance will remain central to how we operate.

As a command that has sustained VPP excellence for over a decade, we recognize that our greatest threat is complacency. We will challenge ourselves to improve, to learn, and to lead, never settling for past success, but continually striving for a higher standard.

Our commitment to VPP reflects who we are as a command. It is a commitment to our people, to our mission, and to our standards. We will lead with purpose, act with discipline, and remain steadfast in our pursuit of safety and health excellence.

Semper Fidelis,

STEPHEN A. RITCHIE

Colonel, United States Marine Corps

Commanding Officer

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