



3d Landing Support Battalion Safety Policy Statement

12 July 2022

Landers,

I am committed to the safety of our Marines, Sailors and family members. All of us must take safety seriously and be proactive—on and off duty. **Have a plan before executing any mission**, regardless if it is a convoy, an aerial delivery, a helicopter support team, a night out in American Village, or annual leave in Tokyo.

Both what we do as Landers and where we live on Okinawa are filled with hazards. We must be prepared to execute our assigned mission, and I have no doubt that each of us wants to enjoy the opportunities of living in East Asia. To operate and live here safely, we must internalize the fundamentals of safety—**that we make the identification of hazards, assessment of risks, and implementation of controls a part of our personal and professional battle rhythms.**

Safety is a byproduct of operational excellence. Hone your skills when it comes to the employment of weapons systems and tactical equipment. **Increased tactical and technical proficiency inherently breeds a culture of safety.** When it comes to our tactical mission, I expect the Landers to take seriously the use of our personal protective equipment. Do not make comfort-based decisions. Think through what you are doing, and apply the buddy rule in the field (safety spotter, ground guide) just like you do on liberty. An unfastened chin strap does you no good.

Recreational on- and off-duty mishaps also affect the command's readiness. Apply the buddy rule, especially in and around the water here on Okinawa. Always know the sea conditions before you get in the water, and be willing to come to the beach another day if the water or currents are too rough. **Never swim alone or if you have been drinking alcohol.**

Leaders at all levels must strive to establish and maintain a culture of safety. Leaders must remain engaged during mission planning, rehearsals, and execution to ensure adequate controls remain applied. Provide safety feedback promptly. There are no extra Marines and Sailors on our team—each of us is essential to what we do.

To report mishaps, if you have any questions about this policy statement, or need more information about the battalion's safety program, see the Safety Officer in the S-3.

Semper Fidelis,

J. A. HOOKER

Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, 3d Landing Support Battalion