



# Commanding Officer's Safety Statement



The guiding principle behind our mission is to enculturate a safety mindset in every member of the command to ensure that the Marines, Sailors, Civilians are accountable for the safety of themselves and others. We enable mission readiness by imbedding safety as an essential component of everything we do. Safety is intertwined in Mission Accomplishment. Both Safety and Mission Accomplishment begin and end with operational excellence, leadership, and professionalism.

It is my responsibility to foster and maintain a safe and healthy work environment. I will implement and adhere to the fundamentals of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP); Management Commitment and Employee Involvement, Worksite Analysis, Hazard Prevention and Control, and Safety and Health Training. Embracing and promoting the OSHA VPP encourages and develops a proactive safety culture that strengthens mission accomplishment.

I expect and demand that every manager actively promotes safety by implementing the OSHA VPP and ensuring all personnel are familiar with and applying Risk Management (RM) techniques. Leadership at every level must also train and supervise all personnel to ensure that we are elevating, maintaining and using the OSHA VPP and RM principles and techniques in all that we do.

Safety at this command is built on four pillars:

**Professionalism** —Display a professional attitude and demeanor; seek a solid foundation of professional behavior on and off duty. A professional approach to everything we do is a prerequisite to sound and safe practices.

**Involvement** —All hands must recognize that they have a vested interest in our safety program, understand their individual role, and conduct themselves professionally. Know and respect your limitations. This requires the participation of all members without prejudice towards rank, position, experience, or seniority.

**Education** —Know and abide by established rules and procedures. The unknowing can never be expected to function in a safe and professional environment. The responsibility of teaching and training begins with the commander and extends to all personnel.

**Empowerment and Enforcement** —All hands expected to oversee a safe and professional environment. Aggressively participate in efforts to identify and eliminate hazards; correct problems on the spot regardless of rank or experience. Each of you carry my authority to correct unprofessional/unsafe practices. We all must be extremely vigilant in ensuring that we do not overlook that which could damage or destroy.

I encourage you to ensure safety is considered, evaluated, and incorporated into every phase of our work; be it planning, design, or operations. Include safety in all your activities at home, at play, or on the road. Integrating safe behavior in all you do protects you, your family, and your friends from needless harm.

Semper Fidelis,

G. W. BURNETT  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer  
Marine Corps Air Station New River