



**Commanding Officer
Headquarters and Support Battalion
Safety**



*"Safety is not a separate activity, but the byproduct of our collective professionalism in every aspect of our daily operations... Execute the plan."
- Gen Neller, 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps*

Leaders at all levels within the Battalion must be involved with unit and personal safety. **Every Marine, Sailor, and Civilian-Marine is a safety officer.** Headquarters & Support Battalion will tirelessly promote good safety practices through the use of operational risk management, focused instruction, imaginative and educational training, surveys, safety briefings, and practices and processes as put forth by our Commandant and higher echelons of command. Safety, often referred to as Force Preservation, is about eliminating unnecessary risk, by effectively managing acceptable risk through control measures, and by employing effective personal protection tactics, techniques and procedures.

Per the Commandant's Safety Action Campaign of May 2018, we will continuously assess the professionalism of our daily operations. We will review how our Marines and Sailors plan, brief, execute, and debrief all operations, no matter how routine. We will embody and enforce professionalism in all aspects of on-duty and off-duty behavior.

As the Commanding Officer, it is my intent that we combat the needless loss of life and injury for our Marines and Sailors due to mishaps on and off duty. Too many Marines and Sailors have died through negligence or poor safety practices on highways and roads or during off duty recreational activities. This will stop on our watch – we will be the solution and we will take the aggressive measures necessary to eliminate this threat to our unit and Corps.

Marines and Sailors regularly accomplish the seemingly impossible. However, when Marines and Sailors push, or are pushed, beyond their capabilities, on duty or on liberty, mission accomplishment is jeopardized. Marines and Sailors must know their limitations and understand the difference between courage and recklessness. Leaders must know their Marines and Sailors well enough to coach them to greater levels of accomplishment without exceeding their mental, emotional, physical or spiritual capabilities.

Headquarters and Support Battalion will train continuously and accomplish its mission in a safe manner. We owe it to ourselves, our fellow Marines & Sailors, Civilian-Marines, and our family members to learn from our mistakes so that we do not repeat them. We need every member of our Battalion. Take care of each other.

Semper Fidelis,

Philip G. Antekeier
Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Headquarters and Support Battalion