



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE FORCE
II MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
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6 APR 2014

Chemical Biological Incident Response Force Policy Letter #5-14

From: Commanding Officer

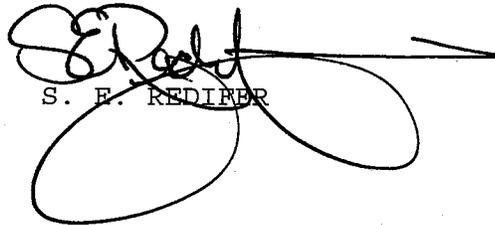
To: All Hands

Subj: COMBAT AND OPERATIONAL STRESS CONTROL

Ref: (a) MCO 5351.1

Encl: (1) Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Combat and
Operational Stress Control

1. Purpose. Enclosure (1) is the Commanding Officer's policy on Combat and Operational Stress Control.
2. Action. All personnel assigned will review this policy letter and become familiar within its content.
3. Point of contact regarding this matter is the CBIRF COSC representative at (301) 744-1040.


S. F. REDIKER

Commanding Officer's Policy on Combat and Operational Stress Control

The Combat Operational Stress Control (COSC) Program is a tool that we will use to maximize force preservation and readiness of the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force through the prevention, identification, and early intervention of combat and operational stress issues, whether deployed or in garrison. Through COSC, we will ensure that we enable a cohesive, ready force that promotes the long-term health and well-being of our Marines, Sailors, Civilians, and their family members.



COSC entails 5 core leadership functions that will ensure the positive development of our personnel to allow them to better carry out their mission. These 5 core functions, Strengthen, Mitigate, Identify, Treat, and Reintegrate, provide us with a framework for understanding, recognizing, and dealing with combat and operational stress. Through these functions, we will enhance our personnel's resilience in order to prevent stress injuries and illness, and we will work to mitigate any stressors that cannot be removed; additionally, we must also have the skills to identify those who have been adversely affected by stress and get them the help they need.

In order to do this successfully, leaders at every level must understand COSC and take a personal interest in the lives of our Marines, Sailors, and Civilians. Additionally, our Operational Stress Control and Readiness (OSCAR) Team will act as sensors for me by looking for small changes in behavior and taking action. Members of our OSCAR Team will also be members of our force preservation council, and they will aid our ability to collectively identify personnel who may be subjected to unusual stressors and recommend mitigation to aid in offsetting the demands of daily life. These OSCAR personnel will support and advise fellow members of CBIRF on combat operational stress issues and intervene to prevent potential stress concerns from becoming more serious injuries or illnesses requiring medical intervention.

I regard Combat Operational Stress Control as a key aspect of our force preservation program and an integral part of being a leader. Combatting operational stress is a leadership, readiness, and warfighting concern - we can and will work to get ahead of this issue and ensure that we are keeping faith with our Marines, Sailors, and Civilians.

Additional information is available through Marine Corps Order 5351.1 as well as the CBIRF COSC representative at (301) 744-1040.

"Do the right thing and fear no man!"

S. E. Redfern
S. E. REDFERN
Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer