

# Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Safety



The Chemical Biological Incident Response Force is charged with the unique mission of responding to a credible threat of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high yield explosive event in order to assist local, state, or federal agencies and designated Combatant Commanders in the conduct of consequence management operations. This demanding mission is dangerous by its very nature, and we must work together to prevent mishaps through a comprehensive risk mitigation effort and mishap prevention program. Our end state is one in which we have accomplished our mission and protected our most valuable asset: our Marines, Sailors, and civilian employees.

Safety is an integral part of all assigned and implied tasks within CBIRF, and it is a vital component of our daily duties. Force protection begins with me as am ultimately responsible for the safe and effective operation of this unit; it then passes through me to every commander, senior enlisted advisor, and supervisor in CBIRF. We must ensure that the personnel in our charge have the proper tools to complete every mission safely. Publications such as standard operating procedures, technical manuals, orders, and letters of instruction will be strictly enforced. Furthermore, sound safety practices and risk management must be applied both on and off-duty. We must prevent mishaps through proactive leadership and active involvement in the lives of our personnel. Senseless off duty mishaps kill Marines and Sailors every year, and as such, special attention must be given to the afterhours activities of our personnel. Leaders at every level, but in particular, small unit leaders, must understand this engaged small unit leadership has been shown to be the best means of heading off mishaps. I expect all leaders in CBIRF to understand the leave and liberty plans of their subordinates to ensure that our personnel engage in off-duty activities in a logical, well planned, and safe manner.

I do not want to lose a single individual under my command - every one of you is valuable, important, and an integral part of the CBIRF family. As such, we all must remain alert and aware of our personal safety as well as the safety of our fellow Marines, Sailors, and civilians - everyone must do their part if we are to eliminate tragic and unnecessary injuries and loss of life. I ask each of you to remain vigilant in providing protecting our Marines, Sailors, and civilian employees

***"Semper Fidelis!"***

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. L. Carter', written over a horizontal line.

M. L. CARTER  
Colonel, United States Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer