Policy on Safety and Force Preservation

Adherence to Marine Corps safety policies, procedures, and best practices is a direct reflection on our professionalism and discipline. Operations conducted safely are the mark of true professionals and the centerpiece of force protection. As we all share responsibility for maintaining a climate that promotes the safety and well-being of our personnel and preserves our ability to accomplish our mission every day, I expect CLR 2 personnel to use Risk Management (RM) to identify, understand, and mitigate associated risks, and be especially mindful of the following threats:

**Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Safety.** Motor vehicle and motorcycle mishaps remain the biggest killers of Marines—far more so than the battlefield. All personnel must apply the utmost vigilance in planning trips. Ensure your vehicles are safe to operate, and that you do all you must to operate them safely. Our motorcycle club will keep as its main objective the professionalization of our riders to ensure they possess the necessary skills and knowledge to keep them safe in traffic. Obey the laws, do not engage in high-risk driving or riding practices, and be wary of others on the road.

**Recreational Safety.** Most Marines engage in off-duty activities that involve some level of risk. Take the time to understand those risks—and account for them—before heading out, whether it is in your backyard, the beach, inland waterways, or one of our National Parks. Plan ahead and approach your outing like any operation.

**Alcohol Abuse.** Alcohol continues to be an alarmingly common factor in issues related to behavioral health, well-being, and mishaps in our Corps. Excessive and irresponsible consumption of alcohol will derail the best plans, both in the short and long term. If you are going to drink, have a plan that accounts for alcohol and gets you home safely. Avoid excessive alcohol consumption and have the courage to seek help if needed.

**Suicide Prevention.** All personnel must be aware of the public health crisis that suicide presents to our military community. We must all know how to recognize the signs of suicidal behavior and we must know how to assist those at risk. Moreover, we must ensure that those who are struggling with this issue know that they can count on their teammates to assist them, and that they will not be ostracized because of their problems. The DSTRESS Line (1-877-476-7734) is available 24/7 and provides confidentiality and access to a trained counselor. If you recognize the warning signs or believe someone is in danger, call 911 for immediate access to a mental health provider.

**Combat and Operational Stress Control (COSC).** The Operational Stress Control and Readiness (OSCAR) teams within our unit assist in maintaining our warfighting capabilities by addressing the impacts of stress in the unit. We will capitalize on their skills to conduct OSCAR training and Deployment Cycle Training in order to enhance force preservation and readiness. Every Marine is expected to engage in the five COSC core leader functions: strengthen, mitigate, identify, treat, and reintegrate, to enhance resiliency, long-term health, and well-being of our Marines, Sailors, and their families.

Our well-being as people and our effectiveness as warriors demands resilience—the ability to function despite the adversity of life or the rigors of combat. Resilience, combined with discipline and professionalism, will prevent most of the mishaps and behavioral health issues that plague our Corps and remain imperative to our warfighting readiness and ability to accomplish our mission in the defense of our Nation.

DAVID H. MILLS
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 2