



2D COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION
COMMANDING OFFICER'S
SAFETY/FORCE PRESERVATION
POLICY STATEMENT



The United States Marine Corps is first and foremost a warfighting organization. We exist to enact violence on the enemies of our nation. Nothing we train for is safe and nowhere we deploy to is safe. We train to engage in and support the most violent activity on earth, combat. Despite the dangerous nature of what we train for, the training itself must be conducted in a safe manner. **Leaders plan to identify and mitigate risk, they do not ignore it. There is no excuse for training injuries or accidents. My most used risk management principle that has served me well in my career: Do not accept unnecessary risk.**

I expect every member of 2d Combat Engineer Battalion to engage in hard, realistic training. This training must be thoroughly planned, subjected to rigorous Operational Risk Management (ORM), and supervised by qualified leaders. Because almost all accidents—both on and off duty—are rooted in poor planning, decisions, or supervision, they are entirely preventable. Through proper preparation and engaged leadership, we can safely execute complex training. Applying that same vigilance to leave and liberty ensures we protect our most valuable asset and maintain our combat readiness. Every member of 2d Combat Engineer Battalion plays a critical role in our success on the battlefield. Losing a teammate to an accident or injury not only breaks faith with the Nation who entrusted them to our care, but we diminish and degrade our ability to execute violence on our enemies. Marines and Sailors at all levels have a responsibility to prevent injuries and accidents. I expect any Marine or Sailor who observes a dangerous or high-risk activity to step up and stop the behavior.

If every member of our Battalion takes ownership of their actions and applies the ORM principles to their work and personal life then they will protect themselves and collectively increase the readiness and lethality of the battalion.

B. S. PETERSON
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, 2d Combat Engineer Battalion