



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL OCEAN PROCESSING FACILITY
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IN REPLY REFER TO
24Feb03

COMMANDING OFFICER'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

As Commanding Officer of Naval Ocean Processing Facility, Dam Neck, I am charged with the absolute responsibility for the health and safety of all military, civilians, and visitors at this command. Keeping our workers healthy and our facilities free of hazards is a vital component of our mission success. As such, I am deeply committed and will go as far as possible in keeping this facility and its total operations as safe as they can possibly be and provide a healthy working environment for all. Occupational Safety and Health will be a result of two broad based functions with the culture of our organization.

First, is a formal and aggressive Occupational Safety and Health Program that, in a systematic manner maintains compliance to Federal, State, and local safety requirements and that Navy requirements are held to the highest standard. We will properly train our team, ensure effective programs are in place, and continuously monitor health and safety performance within the command. We will use local Navy commands to assist as needed in achieving our stated commitment to health and safety. Each and every one of us is a part of the Safety committee, as such we will strive to identify and communicate potential hazards, new information and policies to all hands.

Second, is a group of techniques, procedures, and attitudes within this command that will foster a willingness to contribute to overall safety. This will include Operational Risk Management (ORM) and established principles.

a. ORM does not mean avoidance of risk. Indeed one is able to operate more safely in a risk environment when accustomed to taking risks. Risk management means understanding and identifying the risks, determining if the risks are worth the potential gain, establishing controls to minimize the risk, and establishing proper supervision to ensure controls are effective and followed through. Moreover, ORM must be practiced at all levels, from initial planning for evolutions inspected, observed, and engaged all the way down to daily operations, maintenance, travel, recreation, and around our homes.

b. ORM principles encompass more than just being in the Navy. They are the attitude that impacts all actions one takes in the Navy. They include the following:

- Integrity; the steel on which all the other principles and our entire approach to safety stands.

- Knowledge; lays the foundation for success. Attaining an adequate level of knowledge takes a great deal of hard work - it is never finished.

- Procedural compliance; important because most procedures and safety rules are written in blood or damage. I will make the final determination if we are on a procedure or rule that requires alteration from established procedures. Expediency is not always the answer.

- Communications; positively ensure that instructions are properly understood. Proper terminology and verbatim feedback are key.

- Foresight; simply means thinking of potential problems before they occur, and constantly anticipating what is coming next. This will better prepare us for potential hazards or an otherwise unexpected event.

We will be safe at Naval Ocean Processing Facility, Dam Neck as we tirelessly use integrity, good judgment, continuous training, clear communications, vigilance, and foresight to identify and eliminate hazards. Occupational Health and Safety, ORM, and the above principles are a responsibility of each and every member of this command.


K. M. DONOVAN