DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESO-ZA (385)

21 March 2001

COMMANDER'S POLICY MEMORANDUM #5

SUBJECT: Safety and Occupational Health Policy

1. The safety and health of our workforce, contractors, and public visitors is a priority for me. Our impressive USACE safety record reflects favorably on the leadership throughout the Corps, effectiveness of processes, and dedication of individuals to doing their jobs regarding safety. During my tenure we will build on this foundation and I am asking each of you to:

a. Use risk management principles. Accept risk when benefits outweigh the cost, accept no unnecessary risk, anticipate and manage risk by planning, and make risk decisions at the right level. Make managing risk a way of thinking.

b. Concentrate on accident prevention efforts for maximum return. Target high accident experience activities or populations to encourage and reward safe performance. Provide the motivation and tools for wage grade employees to place a high value on safe performance of duties. In addition to taking actions to prevent injuries that happen immediately as the result of an accident, ensure that employees are not subjected to workplace hazards that may lead to long-term health effects.

c. Use your safety and health professionals – include them in your planning and execution of activities your command undertakes. Set the tone for safe performance of those around you. When situations arise that are questionable or appear to be unsafe, then I encourage you to seek prudent advice before you act. Share technical safety and health capabilities throughout the Corps to maximize the use of our resources.

2. This past year, the Corps achieved the improbable by improving on its solid safety record from previous years and experiencing less than one incident per one hundred worker years. This is half the accident rate of most comparable organizations, and I congratulate you on your successes. We will continue to work together to prevent losses and to protect the safety and health of the people entrusted to our leadership. Essayons!!

ROBERT B. FLOWERS
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding