



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE
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CAMP LEJEUNE NC 28542-0004

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5100

SAFE

DEC 23 2011

COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY LETTER 05-11

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: APPROPRIATE USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WHILE
RIDING AND HANDLING HORSES

Encl: (1) Photographic Examples of Approved Equestrian Helmets

1. There are approximately 15,000 equestrian mishaps annually, some of which cause death and serious injuries to riders and handlers. The most frequent cause of death and serious injury for mounted and dismounted horse activities is head injury. The wear of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), particularly a properly fitted equestrian helmet, greatly reduces the chance for serious injury in the event of a horse-related mishap. For further information regarding horseback riding and head injuries, please visit the American Academy of Pediatrics website at www.pediatrics.org.

2. Effective, 1 January 2012, all persons 18 years of age or younger will wear a properly fitted and fastened equestrian helmet that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards and is Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) certified while riding and/or mounted on horses aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune (MCB CamLej). Refer to enclosure (1) for photographic examples of approved equestrian helmets. For a complete list of approved equestrian helmets, please go to Safety Equipment Institute web site at www.seinet.org and click on the "certified products" link.

3. To further reduce the severity of head injuries for all persons who ride and/or handle horses aboard MCB CamLej, the following personal protective equipment and procedures are strongly encouraged:

a. All riders, regardless of age, should wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards and is Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) certified.

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b. All persons should wear durable, size-appropriate, long-legged pants and shirts, and wear boots or shoes with a heel and covered ankle when using stirrups.

c. All riders should ensure that all equipment is free of damage and properly secured. Always fasten the harness to the horse prior to mounting it and do not unfasten it until after dismounting.

4. Adults will supervise riders and handlers age 18 and younger, and ensure that both the horse and riding activity are appropriate for the child's skill level. Adults must exercise sound judgment based on the age and experience of young riders when determining the level of supervision required. Younger and inexperienced riders will require close, personal supervision, while older, more experienced riders will require less supervision. Never tie a child to the horse or saddle.

5. Horseback riding is a great sporting and recreational activity, however it carries certain inherent risks. Adherence to the guidance detailed in the letter will significantly reduce those risks.


D. J. LECCE

DISTRIBUTION: A

TYPES OF APPROVED EQUESTRIAN HELMETS

