



## Commanding Officer's SAFETY POLICY



The Marines and Sailors of our squadron must embrace safety as an intrinsic value. Treating safety in this regard drives our decisions in properly assessing hazards and applying risk controls. It makes us rethink the perceived urgency that tempts us to break established procedures for expediency sake. It reminds us to execute the plan, and it inspires us to act on our shared responsibility to stop observed violations. Safety as a value then becomes an integral part of daily and off-duty lifestyles, rather than a priority that can be shifted depending on the competing tasks of the day.

Safe practices, habits, and procedures take time. Time that our most natural inclinations would cut when under stress or in the spotlight to perform. Leadership can address the daily struggle against a propensity to cut corners through existing programs and inspiring others to embrace safety as a value. When safety becomes a value, it becomes part of our daily routines, and a hallmark of our PROFESSIONALISM. It also reinforces the simple mantra:

*"That if it's worth doing, it's worth doing right!"*

Reducing unnecessary risks never happens by simply willing it to be so. It requires robust practices, dedicated people and buy-in from every member of our squadron. Every one of us is empowered and obligated to ensure that safety is an integral part of our number one priority - MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT. Be assertive in challenging the actions of others if unsafe practices become apparent. ~~Always~~ ~~can~~ stop an evolution. Every Head Runner is charged with making our squadron ~~safer~~ ~~live~~.

Our goal is zero flight, flight related, or ground mishaps. My commitment to you is to foster and support a pro-active safety culture that prevents all members to identify risks before they become injuries, incidents or accidents. There is no training or non-essential support mission critical enough to injure our people or damage the assets entrusted to us. Operational Risk Management is the central pillar of our Safety Program and shall be applied in all that we do on a daily basis, both at work and at home.

Every day we will ask three simple questions:

- 1.) Do the calculated risks outweigh the mission?
- 2.) Is the crew ready for the mission?
- 3.) Is the aircraft ready for the mission?

If the answer to any of these questions is "NO", **THE FLIGHT WILL NOT GO.**

Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps

**"Pride in our Work, Pride in our Leadership, Pride in our Squadron"**