

HMLA-469 Safety & Force Preservation Policy



SAFETY IS NOT A PRIORITY; IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING WE DO. Whether flying aircraft in combat, fixing aircraft in garrison, embarking squadron equipment for training, going to a party with friends, or participating in outdoor activities with family members, there ***ARE RISKS INVOLVED***. We cannot ignore these risks, wish them away, or pretend they are not there. Vengeance Marines and Sailors must identify these risks, determine whether the risks are worth it, and take steps to mitigate those risks to an acceptable level.

On Duty:

While on duty, professionalism and standardization are the bedrocks of a safe unit. As professionals, Vengeance Marines and Sailors execute "by the book." Our policies and procedures (NATOPS, 4790, MIMS, Marine Corps Orders, SOPs, etc.) are established to identify the correct, effective, and safe way to accomplish a task. We utilize and follow these orders and directives - balanced with good judgment and common sense - in everything we do.

No mission or activity in garrison is so important as to risk the life or safety of a Marine or Sailor, or damage our vital equipment. HMLA-469 will utilize Operational Risk Management (ORM) for every event or evolution. Leaders at all levels must ensure we do not simply "check the box" when conducting an ORM assessment, but conduct a deliberate assessment of risks and incorporate appropriate risk mitigation techniques. When time does not allow for a deliberate assessment, leaders must conduct real-time ORM assessments, ensure risks are identified and mitigated, or stop the event. Leverage "lessons learned" from other units who have conducted similar activities. Pass on what you have learned to higher headquarters and adjacent units so that they may learn from our experiences.

Off Duty:

In recent years, off duty safety incidents have had an increasingly negative effect on unit readiness. The misuse and/or abuse of alcohol remains the number one contributor to unsafe acts and activities away from the workplace. Remember, we are Marines at all times and must act in a manner that is commensurate with that title. We are *STANDARD BEARERS OF MARINE CORPS TRADITION*.

Be a leader, be responsible, have a plan, stick to the plan, be aware of your actions, be aware of the actions of those around you, take care of yourself, and take care of your fellow Marines. It boils down to *SOUND JUDGMENT, CRITICAL THINKING, and DECISION MAKING*.

Expectations of all Vengeance Marines and Sailors:

1. Safety is not a slogan; standardized and professional execution fosters safe practices.
2. Managing risk requires the commitment of all personnel to be successful.
3. Every Marine and Sailor is empowered to resolve safety issues.
4. Identify hazards and take action to correct them.
5. Halt any event, operation, or exercise if injury to personnel or damage to equipment may result.
6. Aggressively challenge the actions of others if unsafe conditions become apparent.
7. Safety **MUST NOT**, and **WILL NOT**, be sacrificed for expediency or convenience.
8. Be accountable for your actions - ALWAYS.

There is no training event or off duty activity that is so important that the loss of a valuable aviation asset, or more tragically, a loss of life, is justified. We must continue to take care of ourselves, our families, and our Squadron mates.



Lieutenant Colonel Richard D. Joyce
Commanding Officer, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469

"Attack with Vengeance!"