



Commanding General  
1<sup>st</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing  
*Safety Policy*  
22 June 2012

An often-heard phrase holds that safety is paramount. **Actually, mission accomplishment is paramount; safe operating practices, on and off-duty, directly affect our ability to accomplish the mission.** Our business is inherently dangerous.

**We excel in this business and have proven that we can accomplish our mission without killing or injuring our Marines and Sailors in the process.** Whether we continue to do so is up to each one of us, every day.

**Though our profession involves risk, mishaps are NEVER inevitable.** They are NOT the “cost of doing business.” They result from common human errors such as inattention, inadequate preparation, unnecessary haste (“cutting corners”), poor communication or weak supervision. Usually, it is a combination of these factors that if gone uncorrected set the conditions for a mishap. We must learn to recognize negative trends and take quick and decisive action to stop them. **Failure to act when a risk has been identified is just as bad as failing to recognize the risk at all.**

**Specific principles I expect all hands to follow:**

- 1. Every Marine and Sailor is accountable for their actions, both on and off-duty.**
- 2. Leaders at every level have the responsibility and empowerment to ensure safe work practices.**
- 3. Know the rules and the approved procedures...and follow them.**
  - When in doubt, exercise mature judgment based on experience, not expedience.
- 4. Know your weapon system, your tools, and your procedures cold.**
  - You will not have the time to learn emergency procedures during an actual emergency.
- 5. Identify Hazards and take action to correct them. Be assertive.**
  - Anyone can call a “knock it off” when an unsafe situation develops.
- 6. At no time will operational tempo be used as an excuse to cut corners.**
- 7. Reprisals against someone raising a safety concern will never be tolerated.**
- 8. The greatest risk to our force in peacetime is poor decision making on leave and liberty.**
  - Sound judgment is all that it takes to avoid most driving and recreational accidents.

We will continue to hone our skills through smart, aggressive training. We must continue to fly and maintain the best aircraft in the Corps. We can only do so by maintaining the safety and welfare of our Marines and Sailors and the preservation of our material assets. We must accept that this applies to both on and off-duty activities. The 1<sup>st</sup> MAW Safety Department is charged with promoting effective safety awareness throughout the Wing, and with advising me on safety matters. Each Group and Squadron Safety Department does the same for their unit. **But that is not enough.** Each of us must accept the **personal** responsibility to preserve our assets—above all the life and health of our Marines and Sailors.

Semper Fidelis

C. S. OWENS

Major General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding General  
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