COMMANDING OFFICER,
MARINE TACTICAL AIR COMMAND SQUADRON-18

SAFETY POLICY

The Marines and sailors of MTACS-18 frequently engage in high-risk activity. The inherent dangers of our profession require that we do everything possible to mitigate risk while engaging in combat, training in the field, operating in garrison, and spending time off-duty. We cannot afford to lose a single Marine or sailor to death or serious injury due to unsafe practices or reckless behavior. I want everyone in the squadron to adopt a "safety-first" mentality. This means maintaining a safe work environment at all times and using the operational risk management process.

Safety and mission accomplishment are complementary. Safety should be second nature to everyone and must never be compromised to meet training objectives. Laziness and negligence will invariably lead to injury or death in a squadron, so unwavering attention to detail and strict discipline will always be used to enforce safety regulations. If the proper equipment or conditions are not available to train safely, training will be delayed until it can be performed safely. Safety requirements for operating vehicles on base, performing combat conditioning, and conducting live-fire exercises will be reviewed prior to execution and followed accordingly. There is no excuse for taking shortcuts that sidestep safety standards or risk controls.

Safety is heavily dependent on strong leadership, proper supervision, and effective mentoring. Unit leaders will ensure that all of their personnel understand and comply with the Marine Corps Safety Program. They must foster an environment conducive to operating safely and ensure that command safety requirements are strictly observed. Unit leaders must also be familiar with the operational risk management (ORM) process and use it to mitigate areas of risk prior to training. They will incorporate the ORM process into standard operating procedures, operational orders, training plans, and while planning for any event, regardless of simplicity or complexity.

We must strive to prevent death or injury to Marines and sailors resulting from unsafe behavior or activity while off-duty. It is every bit as tragic to lose a member of the squadron in a motor-vehicle accident or alcohol-related incident while on liberty as it is to lose them in combat. Every Marine and sailor in the squadron will receive a safety brief from their chain of command prior to liberty call each day. These safety briefs will include, but are not limited to, the safe operation of motor vehicles, responsible use of alcohol, and professional behavior expected of every member of MTACS-18.

Everyone in the squadron is responsible for calling attention to unsafe conditions. Anyone, regardless of rank, should stop training if they determine it is unsafe and immediately report the problem to their chain of command. For further safety-related information, or to make a safety report, please contact 1stLt Robinson, the Squadron Safety Officer, at 636-3403.

Semper Fidelis,

S. M. Kampen

S. M. KAMPEN
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding

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