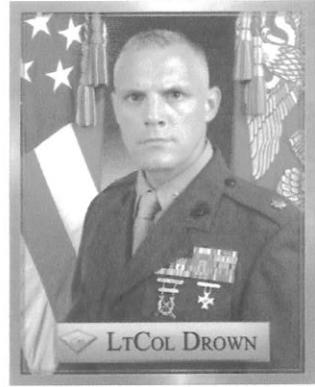


**Commanding Officer
Marine Tactical Command Squadron 18
Statement on Safety**



As the Commanding Officer of MTACS-18, I take personal responsibility for the safety of the Marines and Sailors within this squadron. With your help, we can reduce and prevent mishaps. The majority of mishaps are preventable with engaged, aggressive, thoughtful, and visible leadership throughout the chain of command. I challenge all leaders at every level to become engaged in reducing risk during all activities, both on and off duty. Safety is everyone's responsibility. Prevention begins with sound decision making. Use the five steps of Operational Risk Management to mitigate or eliminate potentially dangerous situations:

- Identify Hazards
- Assess Hazards
- Make Risk Decisions
- Implement Controls
- Supervise

I consider every member of MTACS-18 as a leader and as a professional Marine; 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From day one in our Corps, we are taught measures to protect ourselves from personal injury or death while on duty. Just like the high standards of conduct to which we hold ourselves, we need to carry the same mindset for risk mitigation into our off duty lives. Adhere to and implement safety standards within your work sections, living quarters, and all activities that reduce or eliminate mishaps. Take ownership, make the right choices, and be persistently vigilant. **Safety is vital to our Mission!**

Semper Fidelis,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. R. DROWN".

E. R. DROWN

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 18