



## Phantom Safety Policy

***“Is the juice worth the squeeze?”***



There is no such thing as a tactically sound plan that isn't inherently safe. Safety is not a Phantom priority, as priorities often change – instead safety is woven into everything we do. As Marines, we often find ourselves in unfamiliar, dangerous environments dealing with risky situations. Safety is not the same thing as avoiding all risk. Instead, safety is a by-product of proper planning, preparedness, professional execution, and appropriate supervision. What might be an appropriate risk decision in a Hawaii garrison environment might not be appropriate in a troops-in-contact combat environment. **Always ask, “Is the juice worth the squeeze?” If it isn't – stop!**

- Proper planning. Checklists, flight planning, briefs, maintenance, staff, and division meetings help formulate and communicate tactically sound plans. Risk assessment must be built into these evolutions.
- Preparedness is a natural result of the standards we embrace, train to, and uphold. Know your profession, role, equipment, weapons systems and their capabilities and limitations –**cold**. Be physically strong and ready.
- Professional execution. Marines do the right thing, even when no one else is looking. If you see someone else doing the wrong thing, whether subordinate, peer, or senior, speak up and correct them!
- Appropriate supervision. Leaders always place themselves at the point of friction. Avoid the temptation to sit behind your desk – get out, interact, observe, and supervise your Marines, no matter the rank or billet you hold. This is true whether on the flight line, firing line, or liberty port call. If something doesn't look right, question it and fix it, regardless of rank or billet.

Risk decisions are made at the appropriate level. Rarely will there be an instance where someone needs to make a high risk decision that violates written procedures, regulations, or policy. Do the right thing. If you're unsure, speak up and ask someone more experienced or senior to you. No matter your rank, if you see something unsafe – speak up!

Our mission is to be the most ready when the nation is least ready. To do it, we need our equipment, and our most precious asset, the VMU-3 Marines, Sailors and their families, undamaged, uninjured and ready when called! Remember, **“Is the juice worth the squeeze?”**

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