



MWSS-172

Safety and Force Preservation Statement

Mishaps, accidents, and unnecessary losses have a detrimental effect against our ability to conduct Aviation Ground Support. Mishaps affect our combat power, manpower availability, equipment readiness, and unit and individual performance.

A properly integrated and emphasized safety management system is a force multiplier, not a barrier to effectiveness or efficiency. Safety processes are ineffective when applied reactively rather than proactively as a part of planning processes. Safety is part of the mission, and will be planned and executed with the same intensity as our other warfighting functions.

Not only is every Marine, Sailor, and civilian a "safety officer," but I also charge each person to deliberately identify and mitigate risks. By understanding the risks inherent in our day to day operations, exercises, and personal lives we can create mitigation strategies to eliminate or lower the hazards to prevent injury, loss of life, and negatively impact equipment readiness. Risk Management is a proven tool that allows leaders to develop plans that are tactically sound while minimizing risk.

However, the acceptance of risk does not equate willingness to gamble. Risk will be assessed as a potential gain relative to potential loss. Unnecessary risk cannot be tolerated and must be eliminated or mitigated. Take only those risks that are necessary to accomplish the mission, deliberately and knowingly. We must teach our Marines and Sailors to make safe decisions. Training in basic safety guidelines and Risk Management (RM) will be executed.

I expect that every Firebird and their family apply the same risk management principles to their off-duty activities as well. Okinawa has a lot of great recreational opportunities, however we must consider and mitigate the hazards that are associated with these opportunities.

There is no justification for injury or death during a training event. Leaders should always be able to answer: "What are the risks associated with this mission/task?" and "What have we done to reduce those risks?" Every Marine, Sailor, and Civilian understands what acceptable risk factors exist and is empowered to halt and adjust training and operations when faced with unacceptable risks.

Every Firebird is vital to our success. Leaders at all levels must, on a daily basis, and through consistent interaction, demonstrate the appropriate levels of risk-based decision making. Cohesion and combat readiness is degraded when we lose a teammate to something preventable. It is crucial we always promote safe practices whether at work, home, or on liberty.

Safety must be an integral part of how continuously improve ourselves and the Squadron.


N. A. PENN *6 Feb 23*
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