



Marine Wing Support Squadron 172
Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on



Crisis Response

It is the unfortunate truth that accidents and tragedies happen, usually with little to no warning. If a crisis situation does occur (like the loss of a Firebird Family member in a car accident or an aviation mishap that claims the lives of MWSS-172 members) **I will ensure appropriate information is communicated to all Firebirds and Firebird Family members through an official Commander's Message.** Like other Commander's Messages that I have sent out, the message for a particular crisis will be in an official format and emailed to all hands as well as the Family Readiness Designated Contacts in MOL.

Though there may be a desire to push out information as soon as possible, my Commander's Message will not interfere with the Marine Corps' official casualty notification process. **I will not publish information before it is appropriate or authorized to do so.** I will, however, ensure that Firebirds and Firebird Families know as much as possible as soon as possible. When appropriate, I will seek to communicate how Firebird Families may help, as that is often the desire of those not directly affected by a crisis.

Please note that the Family Readiness Officer (FRO) has no role in the casualty notification process. If there is a crisis that requires official notification to Firebird Families, communication will be done through a Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO) with the assistance of the Chaplain and appropriate squadron and company leadership.

While I hope and pray that we can avoid instances like these, it is not something we can fail to plan for. This policy explains how I will communicate with Firebirds and Firebird Families in the event of a crisis. Please make note and let your loved ones know. **If tragedy strikes, we will do what Firebirds always do: communicate, cooperate, and provide support.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Wilson".

LtCol Wilson
Commanding Officer

25 May 2017