

Safety and Force Preservation Policy

“Mission First, People Always.”

Risk management is fundamental to safe and effective mission accomplishment.



Safety is not our primary objective, but rather a critical enabler that enhances our ability to perform our primary function: To fly aircraft in support of the MAGTF Commander. We accomplish this by preserving our most critical assets – our Marines and Sailors. Conversely, we cannot be risk adverse and accomplish the mission. Our challenge is to continuously identify risk and mitigate it through sound judgement and proper decision making.

Every Marine and Sailor in VMM-265 plays a crucial role in our mission success. Whether it is training, maintenance, or off-duty recreation, we must keep in mind that Marines themselves are the most valuable of our resources. ***As professionals, we adhere to established procedures and do not take short cuts.*** We operate to the letter and spirit of published standards, and, in the absence of specific guidance, ***we utilize our Operational Risk Management tools while exercising mature and professional judgment.*** Safety is not just one program; it is an underlying system that allows us to be proactive in identifying risk and hazards, promote safety throughout the command, and assurance that the appropriate policies are in place. Safety has no rank; we must communicate freely up and down the chain of command to preserve our people and assets. We must approach every task and activity with the understanding that nothing is worth the loss of life, serious injury, or loss of equipment because we are distracted or became complacent.

My expectations of all Dragon Marines and Sailors:

- Execute all actions deliberately and professionally.
- Fix and fly our aircraft “by the book”. Period.
- Every Marine and Sailor is empowered to resolve safety issues and will act accordingly.
- Identify hazards and take action to mitigate or eliminate them.
- Exhibit the moral courage to halt any unsafe event, operation, or exercise regardless of rank.
- We will not sacrifice safety for expediency or convenience.
- Assertively challenge the actions of others if unsafe conditions become apparent.
- Understand the difference between haste and a sense of urgency.
- Be accountable for your actions; decisions have consequences.
- Some risk decisions are beyond your authority to accept; when in doubt, elevate issues through the Chain of Command.

Lieutenant Colonel Jason R. Laird
Commanding Officer, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265

“Dragons!”