

## VMFA-122 Commanding Officer – Safety Policy



This squadron's sole purpose is to deploy into combat, fight and win whenever our nation calls. From the World War II Pacific campaign, to Vietnam and the Global War on Terrorism, VMFA-122 has established a remarkable legacy of service to country and Corps. I am honored to command the best squadron in the Marine Corps.

### My Vision

*"Passionate and disciplined commitment to balanced excellence."*

My goal is to instill a passionate and disciplined commitment to balanced excellence in every member of this squadron – Marine, Sailor and civilian alike. This discipline and commitment will prevent the loss of any Marine, Sailor, civilian, aircraft or piece of equipment. Safety is inherent in and a byproduct of balanced excellence – not an afterthought.

*"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."  
Teacher and mentor of Alexander the Great*

### Zero loss of life, aircraft or equipment is the goal of VMFA-122.

There are two threats to this goal – the red and blue threats. The red threats are why every Marine and Sailor serves – to deploy into harm's way. My job is to ensure this squadron is trained, manned and equipped to achieve tactical excellence – this will mitigate the red threat. But, the reality is that the biggest threat to our safety goal is the blue threat. These are the challenges in life that every one of us faces on a daily basis – motor vehicle accidents, alcohol related incidents, sexual assault and suicides are the four leading blue threats to Marines, Sailors and civilians in our Corps. It is everyone's job to understand and manage these and the other blue threats that threaten VMFA-122's combat readiness.

Mitigating the threats – both known and unknown – begins with a disciplined approach. This squadron must passionately adhere to all published orders, instructions, directives and standard operating procedures. This is the foundation of what it means to be a "Werewolf," and this will be the minimum standard for the squadron – I will accept nothing less.

Achieving tactical excellence while adhering to the "Werewolf" standard will manage most but not all the risks we will face. In order to achieve our goal we must always strive to do more. Whether it is a firm hand of caution, a quiet hand of comfort or anything in between, it will take an all hands effort to meet the mark of zero loss of life or aircraft.

Our junior Marines and Sailors are learning their habits from the NCO's, SNCO's and Officers of this squadron. I am calling on the leaders of this squadron to instill the habit of a disciplined approach to being a Werewolf on and off-duty – set the example of balanced excellence!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. E. Wiegel". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Wade E. Wiegel

Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps  
Commanding