



## VMFA(AW)-224 Safety Policy

Safety comes naturally when we do things the right way. Tactical Aviation is not inherently unsafe, but it is unforgiving. As long as we follow established procedures, identify and avoid risks, and watch out for each other, we will be able to accomplish our mission safely and effectively.

**Be the most ready when the nation is least ready:** We lose more aircraft and Marines every year to the "Blue Threat," both on and off duty, than we do to our adversaries. We won't be able to fight and

win our nations battles if we are injured or killed before the battle begins. Arrogance, complacency, perceived pressure, and inattention are enemies that we need to defeat each and every day.

**Brilliance in the basics:** We must never forget that many of the basic procedures we are required to follow were written in blood. Cutting corners or failing to supervise is never acceptable. Never let perceived pressure outweigh proper procedures. We will conduct maintenance by the book, and we will conduct flight operations in accordance with NATOPS, OPNAV 3710, Training Rules, ORM, and our SOP. Every time.

**Take care of each other:** Safety is a team effort. We all have blind spots and bad days. Sometimes experience helps us predict hazards and avoid them, and sometimes a fresh perspective helps us to see that "the way we've always done it" isn't sensible right now. Every Bengal has a role to play in ensuring we operate safely, and every Bengal has a duty to speak up when things don't look right.

**Keep our Honor Clean:** Courage is one of our core values as an institution, however courage never means we should act recklessly, or allow our fellow Bengals to do so. Both on and off duty, we need to have the presence of mind to think ahead and foresee risks, and have the wisdom to avoid them.

**Reporting/Safety Recommendations:** Either submit via the chain of command, directly to the squadron safety department or quality assurance division, or place in a squadron anymouse box.

**Primary References:** MCO 5100.29B (Marine Corps Safety Program) and OPNAVINST 3750.6S (Naval Aviation Safety Management System)

Semper Fidelis,

M. P. SHAND,

Commanding Officer, VMFA(AW)-224

30 October 2014