

Marine Wing Support Squadron 273  
Safety Policy Statement

Here is the reality: we have tough jobs; we train and operate in austere or less than ideal conditions, at night, and when the weather is poor; and on top of that we are often tired, fatigued or stressed when we execute our mission.



What we do as an MWSS is inherently dangerous. Where and when we operate increases the likelihood for mishaps or accidents.

Regardless of how dangerous our job is, we still need to execute our mission. I need everyone to understand what we need to do to ensure safe operations and to prevent needless mishaps that result in injury, fatality, or damage to equipment.

Proficiency: It starts with knowing our jobs. We need to know the proper operation and maintenance of our equipment and correct employment of the capabilities we have in the unit.

Adherence to SOPs, orders, and other directives: A lot of mishaps (to include those resulting in fatalities) could have been avoided had units followed their own SOPs.

A solid plan: Successful and mishap-free operations do not happen by accident. They are the result of thorough and detailed planning, which includes proper risk management.

Application of risk management: Risk management does not stop once we fill out an ORM matrix. We need to actually implement the controls we identify during planning. After we implement, we continually assess and implement new controls as needed.

Lead and supervise: We need leaders to pay attention to how their Marines train and operate. If we are going too fast, we slow down. If a Marine is struggling because they need additional training, let us train them more. Also, listen to your Spidey senses. If things feel wrong, call a "cease fire."

Do not get lazy: Complacency kills. This is a proven fact. If we get too comfortable doing risky activities it probably means we need to pause and remind ourselves of how quickly things can go downhill if we get complacent.

The above also applies to our personal lives. Routine events like driving, riding a motorcycle, or participating in recreational activities are inherently dangerous. We can easily avoid off-duty accidents and mishaps if we simply do the right things. Any serious injury or fatality will be painfully felt across the unit. They are even more painful if we know that we could have done something to prevent them.

There is nothing more precious than the lives of our Marines, Sailors, and families. If we focus on doing the right things and exercising sound judgment across the ranks, we'll easily turn inherently dangerous activities into properly executed, safe and mishap-free operations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. B. LACEFIELD". The signature is fluid and cursive.

A. B. LACEFIELD  
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 273