



VMFAT-501

Safety Policy

Every Marine in this squadron, from the newest PFC to the CO, bears a responsibility for mission accomplishment. It is incumbent on all Marines, Sailors and civilians in this organization to actively engage in the safety program and utilize proper risk mitigation at all levels. Unsafe practices lead to Marines getting hurt and broken equipment, neither of which accomplishes the mission. Aviation operations and maintenance are inherently safe if conducted properly, but very unforgiving if executed improperly. In order to keep our Marines and equipment safe and operational, we must follow the prescribed guidelines that have been written based on past mistakes. On the flightline, all our actions must fit into “the box” with the following four sides:

- 1) The Commander Naval Air Forces (CNAF) 4790 / 3710
- 2) F-35 Joint Technical Data (JTD) / Flight Series Data (FSD)
- 3) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) / Local Command Procedures (LCPs)
- 4) Individual performance capabilities

If the required actions fall outside of “the box”, notify your chain of command and don’t push a bad situation. No individual in this unit can make the decision at his/her level to skip a step or not do a task according to the standard. If normal reporting will be inhibited by the chain of command, please use the ANYMOUSE for unsafe or unhealthful working conditions.

Off duty accidents have been the biggest killer of Marines over the last decade. I need each and every one of you to accomplish the mission. I want each of you to enjoy your free time to its maximum potential, but I need you to adopt the same safety attitude at home as you do at work. No matter what the activity, always look to identify hazards, assess the risk, and put measures in place to mitigate that risk. Before each weekend/liberty period/event, have the following:

- 1) A sound plan
- 2) A buddy
- 3) An understanding of your limits AND your buddy’s limits

Finally, if the plan falls apart, call someone. We always have someone available to help! We’ll sort out how the plan degraded later.

Christopher E. Brandt
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC
Commanding Officer