

VMM-263 Commanding Officer's Safety Policy



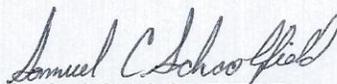
Thunder Eagles, the business we are in is inherently dangerous and demanding. We do three fundamental things; we accomplish the mission, we train to ensure that we're ready to accomplish follow on missions, and we take care of our Marines, Sailors, and each other. Safety is a vital component of our Force Protection efforts in each of these three activities, and it is a basic leadership responsibility.

Force preservation is a vital element of our combat readiness; death, serious injury, and the loss of materiel assets due to mishaps directly and negatively impacts the warfighting capability of the entire Marine Corps. Engaged leadership at all levels is the key to ensuring a command climate that demands the preservation of Marine Corps assets through risk management. Operational Risk Management is the central pillar of our safety program and shall be applied in all that we do on a daily basis, both at work and at home.

Our goal is zero flight, flight related, and aviation ground mishaps. I will foster a proactive safety culture that praises those who identify risks before they become injuries, accidents, or incidents. There is no training mission critical enough to injure our people or damage the assets entrusted to us. Preservation of our most precious assets – our Marines, Sailors, civilian personnel and equipment – is every Marine's goal and responsibility.

Despite the ever-present red threat, the Marine Corps' greatest deterrent to mission success continues to be the blue threat. We have programs and procedures in place to mitigate risks on and off duty, but mishaps still consume the lives of Marines and cause a reduction of our material assets. True professionals take a dedicated and consistent approach to their work and are always striving to improve. I expect nothing less from every member of VMM-263. Follow proper protocols and procedures and challenge anyone who does not.

Any safety violations will be reported through the chain of command or via the Anymouse boxes located in the squadron spaces. If for any reason the report is ignored or not sufficiently addressed, Marines are obligated to contact the Squadron Safety Officer, or request mast, to address the situation.


S. C. SCHOOLFIELD
Commanding Officer