



VMM-266 COMMANDING OFFICER
SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT



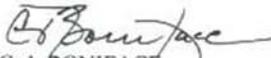
1. A successful squadron is defined through a variety of characteristics; high maintenance readiness, exceptional training plans, and disciplined Marines name a few. As your commanding officer, I believe the most important metric a squadron can use to measure its mettle is mission accomplishment. **At VMM-266 mission accomplishment is and will be our number one priority- it is how WE will define ourselves.** Our mission will be accomplished through **professionalism and accountability**, the cornerstones of our daily operations. The squadron will achieve these cornerstones by focusing on and mitigating the risk with the underlying belief that all mishaps are 100% avoidable. Conducting ourselves in a professional manner, being 100% accountable for our actions, and continuously focusing on and mitigating risk will be the pillars that will allow us to achieve success and accomplish the mission. This policy letter is mandatory reading for all members of VMM-266.

2. It does not matter whether we are preparing for combat or a day at the beach- use these guidelines as a roadmap to mission accomplishment:

- **Be professional and accountable.** This encompasses everything that we do as Marines both on and off duty. It is the means by which every day begins and everyday ends- it defines you! Professionalism isn't just haircuts and sharp uniforms, it's knowing your job; it is your conduct and actions when nobody is looking. Seek improvement and be accountable for your actions!
- **Mentor and be a good leader.** No one walked into the Marine Corps and their new MOS an expert. You must take the time to teach and pass on the technical acumen you have garnered. You will know your Marines; know their families, their struggles, their failures and successes. You will help them to succeed and you will make them better.
- **Identify the risk.** Look for risk in everything you do. Find it, fix it, and inform others. All mishaps are caused by a chain of events. Be vigilant, be bold, and break the chain.
- **Be an expert at your job and do all things with passion.** We will make simple and smart decisions, have a positive attitude and exude confidence. We will do things by the book, and we will know the book cold!
- **We will learn from our mistakes.** All of us make mistakes. However, if we don't take time to analyze and learn from our mistakes we are destined to continue making them. We will own up to our mistakes and we will all learn from them.

3. I challenge every member of this command to speak up when things appear unsafe, or even stupid. I also challenge every member of this command to seek improvement, and work as a team. We must understand that our Nation and Corps demand us to be combat ready at a moment's notice. We will be successful, and we will attain mission accomplishment through our professionalism and accountability.

Semper Fidelis!


C. J. BONIFACE
Commanding Officer