

Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One

Commander's Safety Policy



Background: Marine aviation exists in a challenging and dynamic environment where risk cannot be eliminated. This is true even in training. Safety is a natural by-product of professional mission execution in this risk-inherent environment- it is neither "paramount" nor a goal or end unto itself. *The goal of any fighting organization is to accomplish the mission while spending the fewest possible resources.* We accomplish that goal by managing the risk that cannot be eliminated.

Purpose: To establish a common understanding of risk management at MAWTS-1.

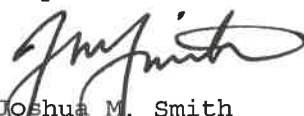
Tenets: MAWTS-1 exists to provide the most realistic, advanced tactical training to Marine and Joint Forces to ensure these forces succeed in competition, and if necessary, decisively defeat our nation's adversaries. While replicating this complex operating environment during the WTI course or Fleet Support, consider:

- Managing risk begins with *Brilliance in the Basics*. Even at the aviation center of excellence, blocking and tackling are central to everything we do. Know your weapon system, the ROE, and training rules COLD.
- Understand the operational environment to the max extent possible and build simple, flexible plans to account for changes in that environment.
- The losses that may be acceptable in combat are not acceptable in training, and we are training... There are NO mandatory missions during WTI or Fleet Support.
- Providing the most realistic and relevant tactical aviation training may require operating near the edge of aircraft operating envelopes or near the edge of a students' comfort level. Press toward but never past these boundaries.
- Offset risk by applying resources. Resources include the "way" we fight i.e., our standards, policies, and tactics. Resources also include the "means" with which we fight i.e., personnel, equipment, and TIME.
- Of all resources, time is often our most precious. It is the one resource that cannot be replaced, and when it is compressed can contribute to perceived pressure and resultant errors.
- Commanders own resources and therefore own risk: Acceptable Level of Risk (ALR) is inherent to Commander's Intent. If you are uncertain of intent or ALR, seek clarification. If you have resource shortfalls, communicate with the command.
- Risk Management methodologies apply both on and off duty.

Goal: *Assess risk within the plan, identify required resources to mitigate that risk, and communicate residual (necessary) risk.*

Whether in an aircraft, in a vehicle on the range, or atop an aircraft on the flight line, MAWTS-1 personnel are the first line of defense in managing risk during our operations. Every member of this command has the authority and the responsibility to question what we are doing and how we are doing it.

Semper Fidelis,


Joshua M. Smith
Commanding Officer