



Safety Policy



Flying and maintaining aircraft is dangerous and will never be without risk. Risk is inherent in military operations and in many cases, accepted; however, taking unnecessary risk is never acceptable. Every Marine and Sailor must understand that **SAFETY IS A STINGER VALUE** - not a priority. Priorities can change or be re-prioritized based upon existing circumstances; a value becomes part of who we are and therefore must be incorporated into everything that we do. Safety as a value ensures that we do not bend the rules to meet operational requirements.

There is no peacetime mission worth sacrificing our Marines, Sailors, or aircraft. Safety is everyone's responsibility, and it requires a constant effort and commitment. The rules and standard operating procedures within the Marine Corps and naval aviation are often the result of tragic mishaps and accidents. Adherence to established policies and procedures, maintaining awareness of our surroundings, effective training, and remaining focused on the mission at hand reduces risk. Comply with policy. Follow procedure. Use the checklists. Do not allow perceived pressure to detract from the published procedures or policies. It is irresponsible, illegal, and unsafe to ignore or circumnavigate these directives. Practice safe behaviors even when no one is watching – every Stinger must demonstrate the moral courage to do what is right, regardless of the level of supervision present. Do not hesitate to correct a fellow Marine or Sailor who is not demonstrating professional integrity, regardless of rank or position.

Stingers are professionals. Professionals incorporate safety and risk mitigation into every plan and throughout execution. Risk Management is a commonsense thought process that acknowledges that not all risks can be eliminated, but most risks can be anticipated and mitigated. Doing things right the first time saves time and resources, and it is the safest way to accomplish the mission. As professionals, Stingers shall read and understand published policies, strictly adhere to applicable standards, and always apply risk management – on and off duty. When specific guidelines are absent or inadequate, the conscious use of mature judgement is expected. Acknowledge mistakes, identify the lessons learned, and move forward without repeating the same mistakes.

Think of ways to accomplish the mission safer and more efficiently and use your chain of command to further your ideas into implementation. Do not take it upon yourself to change procedures independently. The Anymouse program is available to bring ideas directly to my attention. Your ideas can have an immediate, positive impact on the rest of the H-1 fleet.

We cannot execute our mission with anything less than fully mission capable Marines, Sailors, aircraft, and equipment. On liberty, within the hangar, on the flight line, in the field, and in the air, I expect you all to maintain the discipline and professionalism for which Stingers are known.

Lieutenant Colonel D. R. Howe
Commanding Officer, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 267

Anytime. Anywhere.