



## Safety Policy



Flying and maintaining aircraft is dangerous and will never be without risk. Although risk is inherent and in many cases accepted, taking unnecessary risk is never acceptable. We will adhere to established procedures, maintain awareness of our surroundings, and remain focused on the mission at hand. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

The profession of arms requires each of us to place our lives in the hands of others on a daily basis. This is an awesome responsibility and we must constantly prove worthy of the trust that other Marines and sailors place in us. Because of this, 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 built into everything that we do. Safety as a value ensures that we do not bend the rules to meet operational requirements. On the tension between tactical execution and safety and the resulting misperception that each impedes the other, let me be clear – If you're not being safe, then you're not being tactical.

The rules and standard operating procedures within the Marine Corps and naval aviation are written in blood. Likewise, the laws that govern our conduct in the civilian world are derived from years of collective experience. It is irresponsible and illegal 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 and to correct a fellow Marine or sailor who is not doing the right thing, regardless of rank or position.

Stingers are professionals. Professionals incorporate safety and risk mitigation into every plan and throughout execution. Risk Management (RM) is a commonsense thought process acknowledging that some risks cannot be eliminated, but most can be anticipated and mitigated. Doing things right the first time saves time, resources, and is the safest way to accomplish the mission. As professionals, Stingers shall read and understand published policies, strictly adhere to applicable standards, and apply RM both on and off duty at all times. 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. Use your chain of command to further your ideas into implementation. The Anymouse program is available to bring ideas directly to my attention. Do not take it upon yourself to change procedures independently. As a Stinger and member of an elite fighting organization, 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, on the hangar deck, 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. Stingers are ready to answer the call ANYTIME, ANYWHERE and we will ensure we do so by way of a culture of safety EVERYTIME, EVERYWHERE.

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