



## VMFAT-502

# Safety Policy



The Flying Nightmare's mission is to conduct effective training and operations in the F-35B in coordination with joint and coalition partners in order to successfully attain the annual pilot training requirement. The key adjective in our mission statement is *effective*. We are not an effective unit if we attain the pilot training requirement but lose our servicemembers and assets due to a lack of procedural compliance, lack of supervision, poor risk management, or by operating outside of our individual capabilities. This applies to both on and off duty activities!

I assume overall responsibility for the safety climate within this command. I have appointed safety personnel, but all of us must be committed to the safety and health of our Marines, Sailors, civilian counterparts, and the preservation of our material assets. I need your help!

We must adhere to governing orders, policy, and publications. These include, but are not limited to:

- The Commander Naval Air Forces (CNAF) 4790/3710,
- F-35 Joint Technical Data (JTD) / Flight Series Data (FSD)
- Navy Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (NTTP) 3-3 and 3-1
- Marine Corps Orders (MCO), Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) / Local Command Procedures (LCPs).

In her book *How to Decide*, Anne Duke states "*there are only two things that determine how your life turns out: luck and the quality of your decisions. You have control over only one of those things*". Don't make poor decisions and rely on dumb luck to provide you a good outcome. Making smart decisions means managing risk at the right levels. This is Operational Risk Management! Proper supervision reinforces that we continue to manage risk at the right levels.

Risk management should be applied to everything we do, both on and off duty. Risk is often managed well if we operate within "the box". If there is confusion or you feel that you're beginning to operate outside of the constraints provided to us, STOP! You have my full support and encouragement to stop any perceived unsafe situation. We can figure out if perception matched reality later.

The off-duty environment is where we often find ourselves operating in hazardous environments without mitigations in place – accepting unnecessary risk. Please familiarize yourself with standing orders and policies addressing off duty activities. Socialize your off-duty plans. Be invested in other's plans if you're a supervisor. Every one of you are important and your family and friends want you to continue to excel in life. Don't accept unnecessary risk!

**S. Travis Davis**  
**Lieutenant Colonel, USMC**  
**Commanding Officer**