



Commanding Officer
Marine Wing Support Squadron 373
Operations & Mission Policy



The Squadron is a very exquisite and unique force. The Marines and Sailors who provide Aviation Ground Support (AGS) extends the commander's operational reach. We are a critical capability that supports maneuver, operational flexibility, and a legitimate alternate to large, heavy, and cumbersome elements. We have a special mix of Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) and professionals specifically constructed to conduct **airfield operations, forward arming and refueling point operations, airfield damage repair operations, aircraft salvage and repair operations, base recovery after attack, and forward aviation combat engineering operations.**

We will provide timely, complete, and professional support – always! Together we will advance our trademark of “Ace Support”. In planning conferences, others often do not fully understand what the “Aces” can provide. **We must advertise, sell, and shop our capability.** We may be a little smaller than the MWSSs of old, but we still possess a core of experts that can accomplish a wide array of tasks. **Our entire team is charged with serving as our spokesmen.** Exceptional support raises our credibility and improves our Squadron's reputation – this includes your reputation. **Your efforts open opportunities for the entire team.** We have enough capacity and capability to take on a little more from time to time. Together we will balance the workload and mission requirements.

We will ensure that **all Marines and Sailors have a solid understanding of the current concept of employment for the MWSS.** Furthermore, we will look for opportunities to adjust, tweak, and refine our own standard operating procedures to challenge our adversaries. A few themes to consider in our planning are **agility, signature management, resiliency, tactical dispersion, communication redundancy, and sequencing.** There are plenty of opportunities to test and evaluate our own tactics, techniques, and procedures. But before we completely rearrange time tested actions, we must determine **do we need a better thing? Or do we need to do the current thing better?** We must take an honest look at our effort and thoroughness before starting over.

I demand that the leaders within our Squadron read and constantly reference the orders, publications, and policies which pertain to our profession. When our planners provide input and answers during an operational planning team or conference it **must be based in doctrine and publications.** Also, we must be familiar with the Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations and understand our role in the execution of that concept.

Individuals, Non-Commissioned Officers, Staff Non-Commissioned Officers, and Officers all have a very distinct role in **conducting pre-combat checks, pre-combat inspections, rehearsals, drills, mission briefs, checklists, function checks, personal protective equipment, and gear accountability** to name a few. We must be deliberate and thorough as we prepare for combat, we will not have the luxury of easily getting a replacement.

I expect and the team demands, **unrelenting commitment, dedication, and support.** We are tasked with a real mission, which supports National interests, it is time to shine and advance our AGS mission and capability.


Steven B. Dodson