

Commanding Officer, Marine Attack Squadron 223

Safety Policy



As a front-line deployable Marine Corps Attack Squadron, we are required to be fully ready at all times. In order to be able to conduct combat operations, or when preparing for combat, our personnel must be "Full Duty", our aircraft in a high state of material readiness, and all our required equipment must be available and fully functional. This requires all VMA-223 personnel, on and off duty, to be vigilant and good stewards of our assets in order to safeguard and preserve our precious and limited resources (people, aircraft, equipment, facilities).

The business of Marine Aviation (flying, maintaining and fixing high-performance tactical aircraft) is not risk-free. Operational Risk Management (ORM) and exercising our published procedures (NATOPS, OPNAV, 4790, etc.) is absolutely vital. Understanding and following the rules, common sense and good judgment are not things that become habit overnight. They are only present in units that continually do the right things, repeatedly, until they become part of the culture. The Staff, Leaders and Supervisors will incorporate Deliberate ORM when planning operations, exercises, events, or major evolutions to identify and mitigate risk. In execution, Time-Critical ORM will be used by ALL personnel on a daily basis (both on and off duty).

Each member of this squadron, regardless of rank or position, is charged to act when something does not look right, or to reevaluate risk when the environment changes. Both ground and aviation mishaps often occur in front of people who have identified that something is wrong but did not have the courage to speak up. Be vigilant! Take action! Fix problems before they become mishaps, injuries, or even worse, fatalities.

Bottom line: know the rules and follow them; know the risks and mitigate them; speak up when something doesn't look right.

Anyone with Safety concerns or questions should contact the Safety Officer.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Q. Bruggeman'.

Arthur Q. Bruggeman
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, Marine Attack Squadron 223