



COMMANDING GENERAL 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING



SAFETY IS AN ITX/AT ENABLER

With summer, we are embarking on a time of traditionally high operational tempo. Next month, much of 4th MAW will move long distances to conduct dynamic, high intensity annual training at locations across the country and in Canada. We will be executing the highest level MAGTF operations in combined arms exercises with partner nations and with units from Marine Forces Reserve. We must remain vigilant with our focus on safety as a cornerstone for all operations and as an enabler for combat effectiveness. These are crawl, walk, run evolutions and have been designed that way.

Crawl. We are near the end of the crawl phase with planning and preparations nearly complete.

- Your headquarters' Operations and Logistics departments have been conducting behind the scenes coordination, as well as shaping you through preparatory training events for months.
- Our preparation at each echelon provides for learning and the necessary approach to training.

Walk. We must proceed with slow, deliberate, and focused actions throughout.

- Conducting deliberate aircraft and vehicle maintenance actions, detailed flight planning and SPINS study, and detailed convoy and flight briefs by the book are the actions that I expect. There is no routine nor mundane in these evolutions; danger exists at every juncture. Respect it.
- Pay attention to the little things. Remain ever-vigilant and recognize deviations.
- Correct those little things. On the spot corrections can prevent potentially disastrous results.

Run. As we ramp up the tempo, our deliberate choices should become second nature like any immediate action drill.

I've said to you before that high performance entails managing risk, not avoiding it. Our deliberate approach to AT season/ITX crawl, walk, run methodology, will keep us appropriately caged with risk managed.

Our slow, detailed, deliberate approach to the upcoming exercises will help us all understand how these evolutions should look and feel. It will build our comfort level as the major muscles within our varied mission sets are exercised. Only then, with our comfort and familiarity maximized, can we approach these events at an accelerated rate. Only then can we conduct flight briefs and execute those flights within SOPs. Only then, can we conduct convoy, FARP, and security operations safely and efficiently. Pay attention through the early phases of these exercises to build familiarity and recognize when a deviation from that learned standard occurs.

I rely on each of **YOU** to be the eyes and ears that will keep your fellow Marines, Sailors, and Civilians safe and preserve our material assets throughout this summer training period. Challenge yourself and each other when a situation or a choice "feels wrong." Challenge dismissals like, "that's how we've always done it" or "it's good enough." If you were not taught a procedure or action during formal instruction, your guidance is to ask the question. We can all learn from that inquiry.

I count on **YOU** to recognize deviations from what right looks like. I empower **YOU** to speak up if you see anything awry. **YOU** are empowered to protect and preserve our warfighting capacity. We must operate in unison, as a cohesive effort, to complete this training cycle safely. I need all of you, from commander to new join, to remain engaged.

Let us all remember that this is not just another day in the office. If you see something, say something. Stay focused, stay vigilant, stay safe!

Timothy L. Adams
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