As Commanding Officer of Marine Air Support Squadron Six, I am committed to ensuring the safety of every Marine and Sailor. I challenge all leaders, as well as each individual, to place safety as a main concern for all activities, whether operational or recreational.

I envision safety as a fundamental part of everything we do, both on and off-duty. In keeping with the highest level of professionalism, it is of the utmost importance that each leader provides those under their charge with the proper tools to protect themselves. Implementing the risk management process into all activities is essential to ensuring personal well-being and mission success.

All leaders should always ask two questions:

1. What are the risks associated with this mission/task?
2. What have I done to mitigate those risks?

As an organization comprised of Marines and Sailors, we must always strive to achieve zero mishaps and maintain a safety-oriented culture. In order to achieve this, the utilization of the best safety practices is imperative to control situations that could cause death, injury, illness to personnel, or loss of valuable equipment. We must not allow ourselves to become complacent or careless in the work place or at home. Risk management does not end with the writing of the LOI or drill schedule but must be systematically lived throughout the exercise. We can aggressively accomplish the mission at hand without unnecessary risk to our Marines and Sailors.

Finally, all personnel involved in training or the execution of an event are safety officers. You must challenge, stop, or raise the issue to your chain of command whenever an unsafe action occurs or is about to occur. Remember, all Marines are safety officers. I need the assistance of all hands to create a safe and healthy operating environment. We need every member of our Marine Corps to take care of each other – it is your duty.

Semper Fidelis,

T.V. MATTHEWS

Commanding