



Admiral's Corner

From Commander, Naval Safety Center



A Passion for Naval Aviation Safety

What is the secret to having a mishap-free Navy and Marine Corps?

I don't think it's programs. We have plenty of those that provide the tools for our Sailors and Marines to manage risk, improve communication, and help us do business more effectively. Each program is important and helps build a solid safety base. Whether it's operational risk management, safety surveys, culture workshops, or online training aids, the building blocks of safety are available.

I don't think it's data. While we track progress in mishap reduction and prevention in many categories with the use of statistics, those numbers don't always tell the whole story. We investigate and analyze events to find the root causes of mishaps so we don't repeat mistakes. We create a work environment where safety isn't just a word, or a program, or another set of acronyms for yet another program, but the standard we expect and demand.

I don't think it's hardware or mission. Naval Aviation is in a period of transition. As the familiar S-3, F-14, P-3, H-3, and H-46 give way, the FA-18G, V-22, P-8, and a variety of H-60 aircraft arrive. As our mishap rates continue to indicate positive trends, these new aircraft and the people who fly and maintain them will be challenged to further reduce and prevent the loss of life and aircraft.

I don't think it's safety professionals, either. The Naval Safety Center and your command's safety team can use the tools and resources available to build and promote safety programs, but they can't do it alone. When our *Mech* and *Approach* editors give their safety standdown presentation, they talk about passion for safety. A passion to really bring safety to another level—when zero mishaps is the only standard acceptable—for you. When everyone has that passion within them, to never accept unnecessary risk and always think and do ORM, then we will take that next step toward zero mishaps. Take aboard my challenge to have that passion for safety. Make it part of our aviation culture.

If you look at the many Navy and Marine Corps commands that had zero mishaps last year, that's zero operational and off-duty mishaps, success was due to the professionalism and dedication of all hands in those commands.

For two years now, I've had the privilege to work with the finest professionals anywhere. And I don't limit this to the staff here at the Safety Center, but I mean all of you in Naval Aviation. I believe I've answered my opening question: the answer is **you**. On and off-duty, have that passion for mission success, for safety, for your families, and, for your shipmates.