

## Military Wisdom

"A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit." - Army's magazine of preventive maintenance.

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"Aim towards the Enemy." - Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher

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"When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend. - U.S. Marine Corps

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"Cluster bombing from B-52s are very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground." - USAF Ammo Troop

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"If the enemy is in range, so are you." - Infantry Journal

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"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed." - U.S. Air Force Manual

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"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons." - General Macarthur

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"Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo." - Infantry Journal

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"You, you, and you ... Panic. The rest of you, come with me." - U.S. Marine Corp Gunnery Sgt.

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"Tracers work both ways." - U.S. Army Ordnance

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"Five second fuses only last three seconds." - Infantry Journal

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"Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything." - U.S. Navy Swabbie

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"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid." - David Hackworth

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"If your attack is going too well, you're walking into an ambush." - Infantry Journal

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"No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection." - Joe Gay

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"Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once."

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"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do." - Unknown Marine Recruit

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"Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you." - Your Buddies

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"If you see a bomb technician running, follow him." - USAF Ammo Troop

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"Though I Fly Through the Valley of Death, I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 80,000 Feet and Climbing." - At the entrance to the old SR-71 operating base Kadena, Japan  
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"You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3." - Paul F. Crickmore (test pilot)  
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"The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire."  
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"Blue water Navy truism: There are more planes in the ocean than submarines in the sky." - From an old carrier sailor  
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"If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage, it's probably a helicopter -- and therefore, unsafe."  
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"When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash."  
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"Without ammunition, the USAF would be just another expensive flying club."  
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"What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots? If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies; If ATC screws up, .... The pilot dies."  
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"Never trade luck for skill."  
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The three most common expressions (or famous last words) in aviation are: "Why is it doing that?", "Where are we?" And "Oh S...!"  
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"Progress in airline flying: now a flight attendant can get a pilot pregnant."  
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"Airspeed, altitude and brains. Two are always needed to successfully complete the flight."  
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"A smooth landing is mostly luck; two in a row is all luck; three in a row is prevarication."  
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"I remember when sex was safe and flying was dangerous."  
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"Mankind has a perfect record in aviation; we never left one up there!"  
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"Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable of understanding or doing anything about it."  
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"The Piper Cub is the safest airplane in the world; it can just barely kill you." - Attributed to Max Stanley (Northrop test pilot)  
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"There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime." - Sign over squadron ops desk at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1970

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"If something hasn't broken on your helicopter, it's about to."

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"You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal."

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As the test pilot climbs out of the experimental aircraft, having torn off the wings and tail in the crash landing, the crash truck arrives, the rescuer sees a bloodied pilot and asks "What happened?". The pilot's reply: "I don't know, I just got here myself!" - Attributed to Ray Crandell (Lockheed test pilot)