



CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
HEADQUARTERS, FLORIDA WING



9 October 2018

**PILOT INFORMATION BULLETIN – Crew Situational Awareness During
Preflight and Taxi**

PIB: 18-002

Effective: 7 October 2018

Expires: 7 October 2019

FROM: Todd C. Wean, 1st Lt, CAP & Michael T. Harding, Lt Col, CAP

SUBJECT: **Flight Crew Situational Awareness**

1. **Aircraft Mishaps:** Over the last several years CAP flight crews have had problems maintaining proper situational awareness. Several incidents have occurred because of a poorly performed preflight inspections, lost situational awareness during taxi, and failure to follow a checklist. In several incidents' pilots have taxied aircraft and struck fixed objects. During preflight missed or ignored damage that technically rendered the aircraft unairworthy. Pilots have failed to follow a proper checklist, leaving a tow bar attached and in one instance the aircraft was not trimmed properly and went off the end of runway after the takeoff was aborted.
2. **Factors that have led to aircraft mishaps:** Several factors have led to these mishaps. Not following the approved checklist, and failure to notice hazardous attitudes. Failure to maintain proper situational awareness of the area surrounding the aircraft.
3. **What we can do to prevent a mishap:** Follow the approved checklist in its entirety and after you have completed that checklist. Stop take a breath and look around the area and do a final look to check the area. Double check that the aircraft is not chocked, tied down, or have anything blocking your path. Use proper CRM procedure and allow the other crew member to help with doing the command and response checklist. Taxi the aircraft as a crew and look before you turn down a taxi way or runway.

4. **Finally:** As a pilot in CAP we have been entrusted by the Civil Air Patrol with the lives of other members, and more importantly the families of our cadets. We owe it to ourselves and these members and families to perform our duties as professionally as possible. We should strive for excellence and to make ourselves better pilots. We need to make sure we are always fully aware of the area surrounding the aircraft. It is also important to understand that mistakes will happen, but we must do all that we can to avoid mistakes. And if we do make a mistake we need to admit our mistakes that is simply what a professional pilot would do.

Todd C. Wean, 1st Lt, CAP
Florida Wing Headquarters,
SER-FL-001

Michael T. Harding, Lt Col, CAP
Boca Raton Composite Squadron
SER-FL-372