



In military aviation, a Lead and Wingman contract establishes clear roles, responsibilities, and mutual expectations for formation flying, mission execution, and mutual support between lead pilots and wingmen. Here's a professional framework for a Lead and Wingman contract:

### Lead Responsibilities

1. **Mission Planning and Briefing:** Lead pilots are responsible for developing mission plans, ensuring all aspects (tactics, navigation, contingencies) are covered, and conducting thorough mission briefings with all flight members.
2. **Formation Management:** Leads direct and maintain flight formation, ensuring adherence to spacing and altitude protocols. They adjust flight speed, altitude, and heading as required by mission demands and environmental conditions.
3. **Navigation and Communication:** Leads handle primary navigation, keeping the flight on course and adjusting as needed based on tactical requirements. They also serve as the primary communicator with command elements, coordinating radio calls, check-ins, and any mission updates.
4. **Tactical Decisions:** The Lead makes critical tactical decisions, including engaging or disengaging targets, based on situational awareness and mission objectives.
5. **Flight Safety:** Responsible for maintaining safe conditions, Leads monitor and adjust based on weather, obstacles, or unexpected threats, ensuring deconfliction with other friendly assets.

### Wingman Responsibilities

1. **Support Lead's Intent:** The Wingman maintains formation and follows the Lead's directives, providing tactical support and backing Lead decisions.
2. **Maintain Situational Awareness:** The Wingman monitors both Lead and surrounding areas for potential threats, mission progress, and possible environmental challenges.
3. **Cover and Protect:** Wingmen ensure the Lead's "six" (rear) is covered, guarding against threats from vulnerable directions. In combat scenarios, the Wingman's primary role is defensive, protecting Lead against potential engagements.
4. **Communication:** Wingmen acknowledge and respond to Lead's commands, providing updates as necessary. They notify the Lead of any changes in their status, fuel state, or threats observed.

5. **Safety Monitoring:** The Wingman monitors the flight position to ensure safety in formation, maintaining assigned spacing and altitude.

#### **Mutual Expectations**

1. **Trust and Reliability:** Both Lead and Wingman must trust each other's decisions and actions, relying on clear communication and prompt responses.
2. **Mutual Support:** Lead and Wingmen support each other's roles, with Leads enabling Wingman to effectively fulfill support roles and Wingmen reinforcing Lead's decisions.
3. **Mission Adaptability:** Both parties stay flexible, adapting to changing conditions while adhering to mission protocols. Both are prepared to assume alternate roles if required (e.g., Wingman becoming Lead if the Lead is incapacitated).