

Commander's Call Topics



June 6, 2013

"Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him and to let him know that you trust him."

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)
American educator, author, orator and presidential advisor

June is National Safety Month.

This year's theme

"Safety Starts With Me"

reminds us that accident prevention and emergency preparedness are our most important jobs.

Hagel Emphasizes Summer Safety in Message to DoD

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel urged service members, civilian employees and their families to enjoy the upcoming summer, but to do so safely. In a message to all Defense Department activities, Hagel emphasized the need to make good decisions during a time of year that resulted in more than 80 percent of the Department's noncombat deaths in 2012. Following is the text of the secretary's message:

“ The summer months are often a high point of our year as we take a well-deserved vacation and spend time with family and friends. The summer allows for an opportunity to relax and refresh. However, many of the activities we pursue during our vacation time put us at risk for accidents that have potentially serious consequences.

As you drive to and from vacation destinations, remember that 81 percent of the noncombat fatalities in 2012 total took place during the summer. Last summer, 80 service members died in motor vehicle collisions; 27 in 4-wheel vehicles, 47 while riding motorcycles, 4 were pedestrians, and 2 were bicyclists. These fatalities occurred in spite of state laws and Department of Defense policies requiring the use of seatbelts while in a car and protective gear while riding motorcycles and bicycles.

An untold number of deaths resulted from fatigue -- deaths preventable by proper trip planning and fatigue management while driving. All military leaders must emphasize how important it is for everyone in our DOD community to follow these simple precautions while traveling on our nation's roads.

Some of you will enjoy water activities such as swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving or water skiing. Sadly, six service members died while participating in water-related activities

last summer. It is important to follow swimming area rules and to be aware of the hidden dangers inherent in participating in water activities.

Alcohol is all too often a component in these tragic accidents. Recognize the risks and make good decisions. We all know that alcohol, even in small quantities, impairs our decision-making and is often a significant factor in many accidents. So before taking our first sip, we need to remember never to drink and drive. Plan ahead and always think before acting.

We all must do everything we can to be safer this summer. Each of us must do our part to keep everyone around us safe off duty, as we do on duty. Fundamental military lessons of working together, exercising leadership, focusing on the mission, and having the courage to say no to a risky situation are all essential to enjoying the summer and returning to your units.

I want to thank each of you for your service to this nation. You serve so that all Americans can be safe and free. I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable summer.”

► TRENDING ...

Sexual assault "undermines the mission effectiveness of our great force. Nothing saddens me more than to know this cancer exists in our ranks." -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III [testifying](#) before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

► RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil>

Military OneSource

<http://militaryonesource.af.mil>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod>

Air Force Personnel Center

<https://mypers.af.mil>

<http://www.afpc.af.mil>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Veteran Affairs

<http://www.va.gov>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Website

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

Air Force Association

Scholarships

<http://www.afa.org/af/aid/scholars.asp>

Air Force Safety Center

www.afsec.af.mil

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Vice Chief of Staff thanks Airmen for successful Every Dollar Counts campaign.](#)

Throughout the month of May, Airmen submitted more than 11,000 cost-reducing ideas during the "Every Dollar Counts" campaign, an initiative that empowered Airmen to find and recommend areas of savings.

[Air Force establishes F-35 IOC target](#)

The Air Force expects to declare F-35A Lightning II initial operation capability in December 2016.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force excepts civilians affected by tornadoes from furlough](#)

The Air Force announced Monday, June 3, that civilian employees whose homes were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by the recent Oklahoma tornadoes will be "excepted" from administrative furlough.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Exchange to transition to rip-stop airman battle uniform](#)

As the Air Force transitions from the airman battle uniform, or ABU, to the rip-stop airman battle uniform, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service will no longer be able to order the ABU once the Defense Logistics Agency's stock is depleted.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Airmen must understand business of cyber, general says](#)

As U.S. Cyber Command gains strength and steadily extends its range across the newest warfare domain, it has called on all the services over the next five years to contribute trained-up teams of cyber operators to ensure U.S. military freedom of action, defensively and offensively, in cyberspace.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit

<http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

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► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

June 6, 1944 – American and Allied aircraft flew approximately 15,000 interdiction, close air support, and airlift sorties in support of the D-Day invasion.

June 7, 1966 - The first successful launch of an Orbiting Geophysical Laboratory took place when OGO III went into orbit to perform 21 experiments, a record number for a US scientific spacecraft.

June 8, 1911 - The Connecticut State Air Regulation passed and became the first state air law.

June 9, 1967 – The first O-2A Forward Air Controller aircraft arrived in Vietnam.

June 10, 1989 - Capt Jacquelyn S. Parker became the first female pilot to graduate the Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards .

June 11, 1993- AC-130 Spectre gunships joined a UN raid on Somali warlord forces to retaliate for a 5 June attack on UN forces in Mogadishu.

June 12, 1973 - Early Warning Space Satellites joined the aerospace surveillance system. Fourteenth Air Force operated the satellite system that augmented the ground-based, missile-launch detection sensors.