

Commander's Call Topics



May 14, 2015

“Success doesn’t necessarily come from
breakthrough innovation
but from flawless execution.
A great strategy alone won’t win a game or a battle”

*Naveen Jain (b.1959)
Businessman and author*

May is
[Mental Health Month](#).
This year’s theme is
[“B4Stage4.”](#)

Motorcycle Safety Is a Year-round Ride

Recently Air Combat Command (ACC) posted a [news story](#) on its website that ACC has suffered six motorcycle fatalities this fiscal year, compared with just one fatality in fiscal year 2014. This is especially alarming since summer has not yet begun, and it is summer when motorcycling, and its incumbent accidents and fatalities, typically increases.

Well ahead of the annual summer safety slogans that accompany the beginning of motorcycling season, it is apparent that motorcycling is becoming practically seasonless. For 10 percent of Airmen, it is a form of regular transportation, as well as a fun sport. It is also much more dangerous than riding in or driving a car. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a motorcyclist is 26 times more likely to suffer serious injury as the result of a collision than is a passenger in a car.

What can be done to increase a motorcyclist’s chances of arriving safely? A lot depends on knowledge, gear and attention.

Motorcycle safety course: Department of Defense regulations require riders to complete a motorcycle safety course before registering or driving a motorcycle on a DOD installation. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation offers a basic safety course that will meet this requirement, and can actually help save on insurance.

Protective Gear: According to safety officials, traumatic brain injury is preventable, to a large degree, by wearing a well-fitting helmet, made specifically for motorcycling. To meet that standard, the helmet must be approved by the Department of Transportation. A tight-fitting chin strap and face shield (or shatter-proof, scratch-free goggles) round out the list of necessities for head safety while riding.

Safety gear is just as important from the neck down. Typical summer clothes – shorts, T-shirt, flip-flops – will do nothing to protect a motorcycle rider from road debris, or worse, in a collision. Long sleeves, long pants and a thick jacket, preferably leather, will help protect the skin against road abrasions in a crash, and gloves will protect hands and forearms from flying debris, wind, sun and rain. Ankle-covering, leather shoes or boots with oil-resistant soles to avoid slipping are best. Brightly colored upper garments, along with reflective clothing at night to be more easily seen in the dark, round out the list of protective gear.

Stay alert: In nearly two-thirds of all motorcycle accidents involving another vehicle, the other driver is at fault. Being aware of one’s surroundings and not focusing on a single object for more than two seconds promotes a more comprehensive view. Looking at the road ahead and regularly checking the side view and rear view mirrors decreases reaction time when the unexpected happens. By expecting things to happen, the motorcyclist increases his/her chances of not being caught off guard.

Keeping lights on both day and night while driving helps the cyclist to be seen. Flashing one’s brake lights when slowing to a stop and keeping a safe distance from the vehicle ahead, decreases the odds of a rear-end collision.

By following a few rules and guidelines, motorcycle riding throughout the year can be easy and fun – and, above all, safe!

TRENDING

“We must be ready to respond to any threat, and we’re doing just that. With today’s national reliance on space capability, assured access has gone from important to imperative,” said [Gen. John E. Hyten](#), Commander, Air Force Space Command, when [testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces](#).

► RESOURCES

Website access to the following resources can be gained by clicking on the name.

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[Military OneSource/HomeFront](#)

[Air Force Personnel Center](#)

[Air Reserve Personnel Center](#)

[Department of Defense News](#)

[Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[U.S. Government Website](#)

[Air Force Association
Scholarships](#)

[Air Force Safety Center](#)

[Civil Service Employment
Opportunities](#)

[NAF Employment Opportunities](#)

[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

May 14, 1970 - The SECDEF ordered a halt to defoliation operations flown by the 12 SOS and its UC-123K aircraft at Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam. This order ended the application of Agent Orange on Vietnam's jungles.

May 15-16, 1951 - Communist forces launched the second phase of their spring offensive against Republic of Korea Corps in the east in a last attempt to drive UN forces from the Korean peninsula. FEAF daytime aerial attacks limited the enemy's tactical assaults to night.

May 16, 1940 - President Roosevelt asked for the production of 50,000 planes a year.

May 17, 1998 - An AFFTC pilot, Lt Col Steven M. Rainey, became the first USAF pilot to fly the F-22 *Raptor*.

May 18, 1953 - Jacqueline Cochran, flying a Canadian-built F-86 Sabre at Edwards AFB, California, became the first woman to fly faster than sound. She averaged 652,337 mph on a 100-kilometer closed course to earn the women's jet speed record.

May 19, 1961 - First Titan I arrived at Lowry AFB, Colorado.

May 20, 1970 - An FB-111 launched a short-range attack missile successfully for the first time at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

May 21, 1927 - Charles A. Lindbergh, a captain in the Missouri National Guard's 110th Observation Squadron, landed his Ryan Monoplane, the "Spirit of St. Louis," in Paris after the first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic. He set a 3,609-mile FAI record for straight-line distance in his 33-hour, 39-minute flight. For this feat, President Calvin Coolidge presented Capt. Lindbergh with a Medal of Honor.

The [Air Force Information Dominance Strategy](#) aligns with the strategies of the Air Force and the Department of Defense (DoD) to provide a strategic framework encompassing the cyberspace domain to include a strong emphasis on cybersecurity. It moves the focus of the cyberspace community from one of providing "core services" and executing cyberspace operations to instead focus on Cyber-Airmen executing, enhancing, and supporting Air Force core missions.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[AF, Nepal combine efforts to conduct critical runway repairs](#)

Airmen with the 36th Contingency Response Group attached to Joint Task Force-505 teamed up with the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal to repair the runway at Tribhuvan International Airport in Katmandu, crippled by last month's 7.8 magnitude earthquake.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Enroll newborns in TRICARE within 60 days of birth](#)

To make sure that newborns have TRICARE Prime coverage and to avoid out-of-pocket expenses, service members must enroll their newborns within 60 days of birth or 120 days in overseas areas.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[AFOQT scores updated as AF implements new test, form](#)

All Form S scores of the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test will be converted to the Form T metric which assesses candidates on verbal analogies, reading comprehension, physical science, table reading, instrument comprehension, block counting, aviation information and situational judgment

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

[Air Force Focuses on assured access to space](#)

Space based capabilities and effects are vital to U.S. warfighting, homeland security and the country's way of life, according to [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#), when she testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, April 29.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>

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