December 11, 2014

"It is possible to fly without motors, but not without knowledge and skill."

Wilbur Wright
American inventor
(1867-1912)

It all began in earnest 111 years ago. Catch a glimpse of some footage of the original Wright Brothers flight in this National Museum of the U.S. Air Force clip.

Make Holiday Happiness Happen

“Happy Holidays!” We all say and hear the annual refrain so often that it borders on being automatic. And why not? This time of year there’s much to celebrate — Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, even the winter solstice, when we begin the welcome rotation from the diminishing number of daylight hours to the gradual increase in the number of minutes of sunshine and warmth.

Keeping the holidays happy is not quite as reflexive, even though the wingman tradition helps all of us to be aware of ourselves and our fellow Airmen. No doubt: Safe holidays are happy holidays, and at this time of year, there are too many opportunities to forget or overlook basic safety either through forgetfulness or in a misguided attempt to save time. As the saying goes, “If you don’t have time to do it right the first time, when are going to have time to do it over?”

Remembering a few safety basics about this special time of year and its unique customs can boost one’s chances of having a safe holiday season. Ready.gov tells us how. Examples of these reminders follow.

Candles. Festivals and rituals often rely on candlepower at this dark time of year to supply brightness and cheer. As beautiful as they are, candles can also be surprisingly dangerous. Keep lit menorah and centerpiece candles at least 12 inches away from decorations and other things that burn. Candle safety is easy, inexpensive and basic.

Disaster Kits. Whether you must shelter in your home or car because of a travel-stopping blizzard or a utility failure, it’s essential to have a well-supplied disaster kit. The good news: Once you have assembled one for your home — complete with supplies for unique needs — it can be made transportable to take in the car when the family decides to go “over the mountain and through the woods.”

Pet travel. If you’ve decided that Christmas travel includes the four-legged members of the family, a safe and stress-free environment is not without forethought. Vaccinations, ID and being prepared for the possibility that your pet may not be welcome everywhere are all part of your preparedness plan for your pet.

Car trouble, personal injuries and weather-related delays can be part of any holiday. And so can coping with each. Fortunately, there’s an app for that. Free, fun, useful and life-saving, the American Red Cross makes your state-of-the-art phone a state-of-the-art safety tool.

“Happy Holidays!”

►TRENDING…

“This is not just a military thing,” Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James said at a conference sponsored by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, referring to the air campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. “This has got to be a political solution, and ultimately, there needs to be various accommodations, particularly in Iraq.”
Gen. Hyten: Future of AF is air, space, cyberspace integration

The commander of the Air Force Space Command when he spoke during a breakfast at the Capitol Hill Club recently, Gen. John E. Hyten, the complexity of global space operations and the seamless integration of air, space and cyberspace into everyday life for all Americans -- military and civilian -- was the topic of a presentation by Gen. John E. Hyten, the commander of the Air Force Space Command when he spoke during a breakfast at the Capitol Hill Club recently.

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

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