

Commander's Call Topics



August 28, 2014

"Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy life, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity."

*John F. Kennedy
35th President of the United States
(1917-63)*

THE CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER end officially on September 1st. The need for safety never does. [The Wingman's Toolkit](#) gives us 16 good reasons why.

As Labor Day approaches ask Airmen 'what are you doing this weekend?'

As we enter Labor Day weekend and end the Critical Days of Summer we should be asking our Airmen one simple question, "what are you doing this weekend?" This question starts the discussion on risk management and safety. Supervisors can then review potential high risk activities, travel or a myriad of summer activities like swimming, BBQ, hiking and kayaking as examples.

Communication is paramount to effective leadership and establishing relationships with our Airmen. Asking this question also allows you to discuss the importance of being a good Wingman and making responsible choices. It allows you to review potential risks, identify hazards and help Airmen decide on a plan of action. A second benefit of asking Airmen about activities and interests is the conversation that follows and genuine concern for the morale and welfare of our Airmen and their families. Asking the questions is about more than safety, it is about being an effective supervisor and Wingman.

Once you know their plans, start to use the risk management cycle and assess, balance, communicate, decide and debrief. Consider the need to use the AF Form 4391, *High-Risk Activities Form* or, for a group event, use of the AF Form 4437, *Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet*. Emphasis should be placed on the principle to accept no unnecessary risk. Anyone can call a "knock it off" when an unsafe practice or situation occurs. If you see something unsafe then say something. As world class adventurer and mountaineer Alison Levine said "Fear is OK. Complacency will kill you". (Dodd, 2011)

An important part of the risk management cycle includes follow up. Ask the Airmen on Monday how the activity went. Consider lessons learned that can be shared across the unit and celebrate success. Make adjustments for future activities and repeat the cycle next weekend. Asking our Airmen about their interests, activities and goals leads to a stronger Wingman culture and saves lives by preventing mishaps and preserving combat capability. So ... what are YOU doing this weekend?

Paul H. Weseloh, Air Force ISR Agency Safety Director

TRENDING

"The thing that drove this is something we really haven't attacked. It's a thing called integrity.. We ask people to perform and do their own evaluation. Who is stupid enough to bring to their supervisor a 3 evaluation?" Former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Sam Parish talking about the new enlisted evaluation system at the Air Force Sergeants Association Professional Airmen's conference.

► 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 Veteran 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](#)

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Call for nominations: Portraits in Courage, Volume IX](#)

Nominations are being accepted and reviewed for inclusion in Portraits in Courage, Vol. IX, now through Oct. 13.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[President provides support to veterans](#)

The country is welcoming home a new wave of veterans, and Americans have a sacred trust to get them the benefits they earned, President Barack Obama said Aug. 26.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Nominees sought for Joan Orr spouse and Vern Orr awards](#)

Air Force Personnel Center officials are now accepting nominations for the 2015 Air Force Association Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year Award and the 2015 AFA Verne Orr Award. The Joan Orr award honors significant contributions made by non-military spouses of Air Force military members.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Officials expand space tracking website](#)

Defense Department officials announced additions to its space situational awareness program's Space-Track.org website. The site provides new high-quality positional information on space debris of an unknown origin will help owner-operators better protect their satellites from objects and ultimately create less space debris.

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

August 28, 1963 -- First test of the Apollo program made with the launching of the General Dynamics/Convair Little Joe II rocket at White Sands Missile Range.

August 29, 1968 – President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Executive Order 11424 to give flight pay and incentive pay for hazardous duty to military personnel flying spacecraft.

August 30, 1913 - The General Board of the Navy asked for a naval air service to be created, with funding first budgeted in 1914.

August 31, 1956 – The Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker flew its maiden flight.

September 1, 1966 – The Tactical Air Command activated the Tactical Fighter Weapons Center at Nellis AFB, Nevada to conduct special fighter training in F-100s, F-105s, and F-4s.

September 2, 1977 – The first class of women pilots graduated at Williams AFB, Arizona. Five of the 10 new pilots were assigned to the Military Airlift Command.

September 3, 1908 – Orville Wright flew the Wright Flyer on its first test flight at Fort Myer, Virginia.

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