

Commander's Call Topics



May 7, 2015

"And so my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country."

*The Inaugural Address of John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)
35th President of the United States
January 20, 1961*

The Air Force celebrates
May 3-9 as
[Public Service Recognition Week](#).

"Government Works"
is this year's theme.

Safety Focuses on Fall Mishap Prevention

Falls accounted for 7,671 injuries, including three fatalities, to Air Force active-duty and civilian employees during fiscal years 2010 through 2014. That number becomes even more significant when one considers that those injuries resulted in 44,000 lost work days at a total cost of more than \$30 million. Even when there is no loss of time on the job (i.e., zero lost work days) productivity suffers and contributes to the overall lost-dollar amount.

The Air Force Safety Center is partnering with the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to promote fall safety and prevention during Fall Protection Focus Weeks, May 4-15, launching a concerted effort to eliminate mishaps due to falls.

Falls are caused by a wide range of circumstances. Lack of attention during simple activities and lack of awareness of hazardous conditions are common factors in the majority of costly slips, trips and falls. Slips on icy parking lots and wet floors, for instance, account for almost 500 injuries a year. Trips and missteps on stairs and curbs account for more than 200 injuries a year. Many of these mishaps can be avoided by wearing shoes and boots appropriate for the conditions, and by paying attention to terrain and sidewalk changes and obstacles such as stairs and curbs.

Falls from a higher level – ladders, scaffolding, second

stories or higher, fuselages, cargo holds and utility poles – occur less frequently, but can result in more extensive injuries that require longer recuperation and incur greater expense. However, they all have one thing in common: Most mishaps are preventable.

"We can eliminate preventable mishaps with a heightened awareness and use of available training resources," said Maj. Gen. Kurt Neubauer, the Air Force chief of safety. "Each Airman – active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilians – is vital to preserving combat readiness and capabilities. On- and off-duty mishaps impede mission readiness and accomplishment."

Risk management, both at work and during leisure activities, is key to fall prevention. According to Bill Parsons, the Air Force chief of ground safety, "Preventing fall injuries and fatalities in every workplace – the flightline, the construction site, the office and at home – through education and awareness keeps our Airmen mission ready."

Commanders and supervisors are encouraged to discuss fall hazards and review fall prevention methods during Fall Protection Focus Weeks. Additional information and products to enhance fall prevention awareness are available from the [Air Force Safety Center](#).

Air Force Safety Center Public Affairs, Kirtland AFB

Fall Mishaps FY 2010-2014

Class	Count	LWDs	Cost
A	12	456	\$2,980,121
B	2	50	\$230,000
C	3,948	44,244	\$22,338,124
D	3,709	0	\$4,372,656
Total	7,671	44,750	\$30,045,901



Class categorizes severity, with Class A being the most severe, often resulting in death or disability.

Count is the actual number of such occurrences.

LWD is the number of Lost Work Days.

Cost is the AF expense (in dollars) incurred as a result of the mishap.

► 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](#)

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

May 7, 1984 – The HH-60D helicopter completed its first data flight at Edwards AFB, California.

May 8, 1945 – VE (Victory in Europe) Day. This day marks the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender. (In 1939, just prior to World War II, there were 334,473 personnel in all U.S. armed forces combined. By VE Day, there were 12,209,238 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen under arms.)

May 9, 1983 - A C-141 crew from the 18 MAS at McGuire AFB, New Jersey, became the first all-female crew to fly a round-trip mission across the Atlantic.

May 10, 1913 - Didier Masson and Thomas Dean, flying for Mexican General Alvarado Obregon, conducted the first aerial bombing in an American war by bombing Mexican federal gunboats in Guaymas Bay, Gulf of California.

May 11, 1966 - At Holloman AFB, New Mexico, a Surveyor spacecraft made the first soft landing under its own power to demonstrate its ability to soft land on the moon.

May 12, 1950 - Capt. Chuck Yeager flew the number one Bell X-1 research aircraft on its last flight above Edwards AFB, California.

May 13, 1942 - The first U.S. bombardment squadron, the 15th, was sent to England without aircraft. It flew the first U.S. AAF operations over Western Europe on July 4 against enemy airfields in the Netherlands.

May 14 1923 - The Army accepted the first PW-8 prototype. It evolved into the Curtiss Hawk series of biplane pursuit aircraft. (The "W" designated that it had a water-cooled engine.)

Our standards of **password cyber safety** may have originated with the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II. The Navajo language depends on **inherent knowledge**. It includes many words whose meaning is derived from the inflection with which they are spoken. The language is also incomprehensible to the non-native listener because it relies on **nuanced sounds**. Verb forms are **very complex** and are understood by very few, blocking the non-Navajo listener from being able to establish a pattern of understanding.

*Similarly, if an individual password is **based on personal knowledge** or experience, is **nuanced** and is **relatively complex** or lengthy, it is less likely to be hacked or compromised.*

► CURRENT ISSUES

[\\$2M Air Force Prize for development of a small, efficient engine](#)

The first entrant to develop a small, lightweight, fuel-efficient turbine engine will win \$2 million. The contest is open to individuals and teams, both military and civilian.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Website improves, simplifies military child care search](#)

A new DOD website, currently available at Nellis AFB, Nevada, and due to go nationwide by the end of June, helps military children transition to new surroundings and offers access to information to facilitate relocation.

[Active-duty Airmen to have direct access to physical therapy clinics](#)

Streamlining the process to directly accessing physical therapy for active-duty Airmen is a major policy shift designed to assure that treatment is received in a timelier manner, thereby reducing health care costs, time spent in physical therapy and incidence of follow-up invasive procedures.

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

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