

SAFETY & SECURITY

Practice, make your own luck

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3rd Wing Safety Office

A couple of years ago I was watching a high profile major championship golf tournament. One announcer was beside himself with amazement after a spectacular Tiger Woods shot, stating, "He is the luckiest golfer ever." Another announcer quickly piped in, "Yeah, the more he practices – the luckier he gets." Those words have really stuck with me and should make all Arctic Warriors realize – as a team we can make our own luck!

In a letter to his father dated September 1900, Wilbur Wright said, "In flying I have learned that carelessness and overconfidence are usually far more dangerous than deliberately accepted risks."

With the Pacific Air Forces Operational Readiness Inspection just a few short days away, it is imperative that we focus on operating safely during long hours in heightened Mission Oriented Protective Posture levels. The observation Wilbur Wright made over a hundred years ago is still pertinent today. Each of us must make educated risk assessments and proceed with care.

While performing tasks in elevated MOPP levels with a sense of urgency is critical to the wing's success during the ORI, people also need to use common sense and Operational Risk Management practices to keep themselves healthy and combat ready. Some of the biggest problems faced in combat—real or simulated—are fatigue, dehydration and operating in unfamiliar surroundings and situations.

Cold weather

Prepare for cold, icy weather conditions. This time of year, our days are warm enough to melt the snow. However, our nights are cold enough to turn the standing water into ice, causing dangerous driving and walking conditions. It is imperative for everyone to slow down and keep safety in the forefront of their minds. This requires constant and relentless effort.

Reflective gear

To significantly minimize safety hazards, ensure reflective gear is worn during hours of low light, whether walking in

parking lots, on sidewalks or working on the flightline. The reflective belt should be worn in a manner that makes the individual visible from all sides. Remember, belts are to be worn during exercises as well as real-world, everyday operations.

Driving in MOPP gear

Risk is increased while driving a vehicle in full MOPP gear. Although cumbersome, remember to wear safety belts and slow down. The extra headgear limits visibility so alter normal habit patterns to compensate. Ensure required unit training is accomplished before personnel operate vehicles with protective masks. Fatigue should also be calculated into the risk equation to avoid a mishap.

Hydration

Making sure people are properly hydrated is also an area where heightened emphasis is required. Canteens need to be filled with water only—no caffeine or energy drinks, as these beverages will only increase one's thirst.

Ensure that your canteen and gas mask drinking tube are clean to prevent any illnesses that could result. While in MOPP gear, you must drink a quart of water before your shift and another quart every hour. Some symptoms of dehydration include headache, dry skin and faintness.

Fatigue

Finally, fatigue can become a factor during any multi-day exercise or inspection where people are working extended hours. It can cause lapses in mental capability and faulty judgment, resulting in injury, property damage and even loss of life. The time it takes an individual to become accustomed to a new shift will vary from person to person, and fatigue may increase until the body responds to the new work-rest cycle. Supervisors need to be aware of this, and take the proper precautions to prevent fatigue-related mishaps.

You've likely heard these thoughts before. Nevertheless, lapses in human performance are the leading cause of mishaps and it is my hope that being aware of some of the risks will make each person more vigilant.

Col. Michael Snodgrass, 3rd Wing commander, has stated many times that safe operations result from well planned, accurately communicated, and precisely executed operations. We have worked very hard recently to realize that goal and ultimately to make our own luck.



STAFF SGT. SUE NUCKOLLS

Safety is everyone's responsibility. If you see something that is unsafe or something that could lead to an unsafe situation, act immediately to safely mitigate the risk and minimize the effects and then bring it to a supervisor's attention.

Antiterrorism points

Terrorism is always a threat to U.S. forces, and everyone must guard against terrorist attacks. Here's what you should do:

- Be vigilant—watch for anything or anyone suspicious.
- Be familiar with your workcenter or other surroundings. Take note of any unexpected changes.
- Challenge or report unknown or unauthorized people around your work area.
- Be aware of anything out of the ordinary—protruding wires, abandoned vehicles, etc.
- Treat suspicious devices or packages just as you would any unexploded ordnance—identify, mark, evacuate and report. Never move or open them!
- Report any suspicious incidents to the security forces at 552-0653.

COMSEC reminders

COMSEC material includes all items that secure or authenticate telecommunications.

Using unsecured COMSEC equipment to discuss even portions of what the 3rd Wing is doing offers the enemy—who is listening—enough information to impact our military operation.

Properly using, safeguarding, controlling, and possibly destroying COMSEC material (routinely or during an emergency) is everyone's business.

Communication is vital to military operations—but remember that carelessness when using communications equipment can jeopardize the mission. Follow these guidelines:

- Remember that anyone with basic monitoring equipment—which is relatively cheap and easy to obtain—can listen to your telephone and radio calls.
- Never discuss sensitive or classified information over nonsecure lines. Remember that some unclassified information may become classified when combined with other information—be careful what you say!
- Never try to "talk around," paraphrase or use code words to disguise sensitive or classified information on unsecure lines. Take the time to get to a secure phone.
- Refer anyone identifying themselves as a member of the media to public affairs, 552-8151 or 552-4443.

OPSEC: Protect assets, information, each other

Remember OPSEC during the ORI!

Operations Security prevents the disclosure of unclassified, but sensitive, information. Keeping the details of our operations out of enemy hands is everybody's responsibility.

Everyone should have a copy of the 3rd Wing's Critical Information Indicators List posted at every phone. The list can also be found on Topcover.

It covers a variety of areas people commonly overlook. The major categories discuss operational capability, deployment

indicators, security, intelligence, personnel, communications and logistics.

Talk about work-related items and issues at work, as opposed to at home, at the Base Exchange or around town, and destroy or shred items containing critical information when they are no

longer in use.

Remember, bits of information about friendly activities, intentions or limitations can be acquired by hostile interests and jeopardize the success of any operation or mission. When in doubt, go secure.