



101 Critical Days of Summer

Week of 23 May 2007 – 30 May 07

Safety must remain top priority during this season

Did you know, we've lost more Airmen to traffic fatalities during the same time frame as the Global War on Terrorism which started in October 2001?

The period between Memorial Day and Labor Day is a period of increased off-duty injuries caused by increased activity and risk taking. That's why Air Force leaders embark on a safety campaign every year called the '101 Critical Days of Summer.' The campaign began in the early 1970s as a way to reduce the large number of Air Force off-duty fatalities in the summer months.

Historically, this is a period of high risk because people are doing more. People are outside traveling, swimming, camping. 146 Airmen were killed in mishaps during the last five 101 Critical Days of Summer periods. Of these fatalities, 117 were traffic related, and 43% of these deaths were motorcyclists. Just this past weekend, four Airmen were killed in four separate vehicle accidents, two while driving motorcycles.

Young men between the ages of 18 and 25 are most at risk for injury or death, yet all Airmen and their families need to remain extra vigilant about safety as the temperatures rise. Whether barbecuing in your backyard to setting out on a road trip or even just trying out a new sport, all Airmen need to think about their actions and the possible consequences.

Throughout the summer, Airmen can expect to be reminded of key safety tips through commander's calls, base publications and from their supervisors. Pay attention to them. Airmen are our most valuable asset, so be safe and take care of each other.

Some important safety reminders are:

- Wear seatbelts in cars and required protective equipment on motorcycles.
- Remain alert while at the wheel and plan rest breaks at frequent intervals.
- Don't speed in an effort to arrive early. It is better to arrive late than not arrive at all.
- Don't drink alcohol and drive.
- Anticipate the unexpected and be ready to react.

Find Airman's Roll Call Online Here: <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/>

Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.