



# ***US Special Operations Command*** **System Safety Process Symposium**

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# Reducing Preventable Accidents

## ➤ In FY 2002 DoD mishaps resulted in:

- 550+ active duty fatalities
  - 308 were POV accidents
  - 67 were aviation-related deaths

1 military death  
every 16 hours

- Over 1,474,000 military injury cases
  - 348,683 cases with duty limitations
  - 31,631 cases with hospitalization or quarters
  - 91,448 days lost

168 active duty  
injuries every hour

- 2.0 Class A Aviation accident rate
  - Losses valued at \$1.8 billion

1 aircraft destroyed  
every 5.2 days

***“We need to turn this situation around.”***

***SECDEF Memo, May 19, 2003***



# Defense Safety Oversight Council Governance Role

- Ensure personal involvement of senior leadership
- Promote the 50% accident reduction effort to all levels of military and civilian leadership
- Execute the specific initiatives to reduce accidents and time lost due to injuries
- Garner the resources to support the initiatives
- Manage progress toward goal
- Provide periodic updates to the Secretary

## DSOC Membership

- **Principal Members**

- Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (as Chair)
- Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
- Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer
- Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
- Under Secretary of the Army
- Under Secretary of the Navy
- Under Secretary of the Air Force

- **Associate members**

- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)
- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Readiness)
- Deputy Under Secretary (Civilian Personnel Policy)
- Deputy Inspector General of the Department of Defense
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Clinical and Program Policy)
- Deputy Director (Administration & Management), OSD

- **Executive Secretary**

- Joseph J. Angello, Jr., Director, Readiness Programming & Assessment



# Improving Safety Performance

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## ➤ Eight DSOC Task Forces

- Deployment and Operations
- Aviation Safety Improvements
- Military Training
- Personal Motor Vehicle Accident Reduction
- Installation and Industrial Operations
- Worker's Compensation
- Enterprise Information and Data
- Acquisition and Technology Programs (ATP)



# Acquisition and Technology Programs (ATP) Task Force

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## ➤ Purpose

- Recommend or implement changes to policies, procedures, initiatives, education and training, and investments to ensure programs address safety throughout the life cycle

## ➤ Goals

- Ensure acquisition policies and procedures for all systems address safety requirements
- Review and modify, as necessary, relevant DoD standards with respect to safety
- Recommend ways to ensure acquisition program office decisions consider system hazards
- Recommend ways to ensure milestone decision reviews and interim progress reviews address safety

***Establish dialogue between System Safety and Systems Engineering communities***



# How the ATP Task Force Has Responded

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- Issued DoD-wide policy on “Defense Acquisition System Safety” (USD(AT&L) Memo, Sep 23, 2004)
- Developing evaluation criteria for System Safety
- Incorporated ESOH into *Defense Acquisition Guidebook*
- Developed Defense Acquisition University continuous learning course, "System Safety in Systems Engineering" (CLE009)
- Formed NDIA Systems Engineering Division System Safety Committee in December 2004



# Safety and the Joint Warfighting Environment

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- Individual Services have long-standing, thorough, Service-specific weapon safety review processes to meet their unique requirements (philosophies, warfighting needs, definition of what is “safe”)
- For USSOCOM to field joint systems involving weapons, ammunition, and/or explosives, safety certifications and/or releases must be obtained from multiple system safety boards. Differing processes, procedures, and certification criteria among these various boards can produce:
  - Unacceptable certification delays
  - Duplicative testing
  - Conflicting determinations and interpretations of testing results, which in turn are reflected in disagreements among the respective boards regarding the corrective actions needed to receive certification and/or release
  - Certification impasses because no duly authorized adjudication authority exists to resolve the disagreements

***Existing Safety review process is not supportive of Joint warfighting requirements***



# Working Toward a Joint Solution

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- Proposed a solution to the DSOC Acquisition & Technology Programs TF on 21 Jul 05 for collaborative Joint Service weapon safety reviews to support SOCOM
- Joint Weapon Safety Working Group met on 4-5 Aug, 27-29 Sep, 7-8 Dec 05, and 8-9 Jun 06
  - Developed/refined initial set of Joint CONOPS and process flowcharts
- November 2005 initiated process validation with SOCOM approved weapons
  - Joint Combat Pistol (JCP)
  - MAAWS Anti-Structure Munitions (ASM) 509
  - Laser - The Enhanced Grenade Launcher Fire Control Unit
- Complete OSD Guide to Formalize Joint Weapon Safety Reviews





# Next Steps

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- Complete OSD Guide to formalize the CONOPS
- Develop an MOU between USSOCOM and the Services agreeing to implement the process identified in the OSD Guide (Propose the Guide be an attachment to, or referenced in, the MOU)
- In the interim, the Service Boards will operate in the proposed collaborative manner in support of USSOCOM



# Challenges Remain

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- Refining the “Joint” System Safety Message
- Refocusing Acquirer and Supplier on technical management of programs throughout the life cycle to facilitate “Joint” System Safety
- Getting System Safety fully and effectively integrated into the Systems Engineering process to reduce Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health risks & costs

***You Can't Be Too Safe...or Can You?***