



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

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From: Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Safety)  
To: Navy and Marine Corps Civilian Safety and Occupational Health Personnel  
Subj: Department of the Navy Safety Civilian Community Update

Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, and Commandant of the Marine Corps recently identified safety in a list of only ten Department of the Navy (DON) 2005 Priority Objectives for senior leaders to monitor (attachment). Additionally, a first-ever specific inclusion of safety in Department of Defense's Strategic Planning Guidance mandates a continued decrease in mishaps even after achieving Secretary of Defense's two-year 50% mishap reduction challenge. Achieving the goals of this unprecedented focus on safety requires new ways of doing business, a cultural change.

Monthly we update senior leaders on how we are doing toward achieving the 50% reduction. As of the date of this memo, our major challenges in meeting 2005 mishap reduction goals are reducing Navy private motor vehicle fatalities, Marine Corps military operational fatalities due to mishaps, and injuries to Sailors and Marines.

Those of us privileged to be in the community of safety professionals at this challenging and exciting time have both a special opportunity and an obligation that comes with this attention to mishap reduction. One of our primary roles is to be a catalyst for safety. We must use the passion that we have for our profession to gain advocates from throughout our organizations. In this way, we exponentially multiply the contribution of safety throughout the Navy and Marine Corps.

In return, the DON Safety Civilian Community leadership team is doing our best to develop a framework that will provide opportunity for you as safety professionals. With the participation of Echelon II safety and occupational health managers and with the help of many of you, since standing up the DON Safety Civilian Community two years ago collectively we have:

- Established and filled a Safety Civilian Community Manager position at CNO N11 (first with Mr. Danny Tolentino followed by Ms. Joan Crittenden).
- Established a DON Safety Civilian Community Planning Board with Echelon II membership.
- Been the first DON civilian community to prototype and complete the SkillsNet skills identification process.
- Completed a DON Safety Civilian Community Business Plan.
- Completed a DON Safety Civilian Community Marketing Plan.
- Established a web page on the Naval Safety Center website for posting Community documents, meeting minutes, speeches, etc.

- Marine Corps funded several safety interns in the Army Safety Intern Class.
- My office funded tuition for three safety interns in the first Joint Safety Intern Class (formerly Army Safety Intern Class) to evaluate appropriateness of the Class and if appropriate, to recommend changes and additional training/education needed to meet needs of Marine Corps and Navy.
- Strengthened the Safety Civilian Community Leader team by adding an OPNAV/NAVSAFECEN civilian safety leader. Current leaders are:
  - Department of the Navy Safety Civilian Community Leader  
Ms. Connie DeWitte
  - DON Safety Civilian Community Leader Representative  
Mr. Richard Wright
  - Navy Safety Civilian Community Leader  
Ms. Joy Erdman
  - Marine Corps Safety Civilian Community Leader  
Mr. Donald Weightman, alternate Mr. Al Lillibridge
  - Safety Civilian Community Manager, N11 Community Management Division, Ms. Joan Crittenden
  - NAVSAFECEN Support  
CAPT Charlene Brassington, alternate Mr. Al Jacka

Current projects are:

- Developing DON Safety Civilian Community Human Capital Strategy
- First DON civilian community to develop the 5-vector model to provide career path guidance to careerists
- Evaluating application of Joint Safety Intern Class and any adjustments needed
- Marine Corps is funding the largest group of interns to date for the Joint Safety Intern Class
- Advocating for centralized funding for long-term professional development that DON safety professionals can compete for
- Advocating for funding of future safety interns
- Advocating for centralized funding to support recruitment and retention initiatives

What a great privilege and pleasure it is for me to serve as your Safety Civilian Community Leader! It's one of my favorite roles in the Deputy Assistant Secretary (Safety) portfolio. I strongly believe that what we as safety professionals do on a daily basis is critical to the welfare of our people and to mission accomplishment. I am proud of you and honored to serve with you! Thank you for all you do.



Connie K. DeWitte  
Department of the Navy  
Safety Civilian Community Leader

Attachment