



COMMAND HISTORY

Established on Dec. 1, 1951 as the Naval Aviation Safety Activity, the command had 11 officers, four civilians and 13 enlisted personnel. They collected, evaluated and published information about aviation safety. They also advised the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps on all phases of the aviation-safety effort. In 1953, the assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air and the deputy CNO for Air acted to increase emphasis on aviation safety. The Naval Aviation Safety Activity was made a division in the Secretary of the Navy's organization, and its staff was expanded to 27 people. The staff grew to 56 people a year later, then to 88 in 1953, when its name was changed to Naval Aviation Safety Center (NASC). The officer-in-charge was replaced with a director.

By 1956, NASC had seven departments, including literature, crash investigation, maintenance and material, records and statistics, aeromedical, and analysis and research. In 1957, the director's billet was filled for the first time with a flag officer. The following year, the director's title became Commander. The command's mission was expanded into several new areas. The staff initiated and conducted aviation-mishap investigations and surveys and helped formulate policies aimed at maintaining higher levels of combat readiness.

In May 1968, the Naval Aviation Safety Center and the Submarine Safety Center, located in New London, Conn., merged to become the Naval Safety Center (NSC). Programs involving surface ships and shore activities were added to form the nucleus for all safety programs within the Navy. While Marines have always been a part of the aviation process, in October 1993, a Marine Ground Safety detachment was assigned to the Naval Safety Center. In 1996, a reserve unit was stood up, consisting of 30 members. In 1999, NSC inaugurated its Website <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil>. The site includes checklists, presentations, resource pages, instructions, common discrepancies found, and general safety information.

Today, Commander NSC answers directly to the CNO as a special advisor for managing the aviation, afloat, shore, and OSH safety programs for the Navy and Marine Corps. NSC, termed an echelon-two command, oversees a network of safety training, education, and mishap-prevention programs for the Navy and Marine Corps. It maintains a computerized repository for reports on injuries, occupational illnesses and property damage. It is the Navy and Marine Corps' "one-stop safety shop" that gathers information from the fleet, then analyzes and interprets data to help military and civilians develop programs on safety awareness and prevention.

NSC's safety-management responsibility includes ensuring every Sailor and Marine receives training on operational risk management. The staff conducts worldwide mishap investigations, oversight reviews, safety surveys and seminars, and provides liaison support with international military, governmental and industrial safety boards, committees and councils.

NSC is instrumental in developing hazard awareness media such as safety posters, magazines, and presentations.

Headquartered at Naval Station Norfolk, the civilian and military staff of NSC provides support to more than 4,200 commands and detachments worldwide.