



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC



MAY 25 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign for 2012

We will kick off our Critical Days of Summer campaign on May 25. This year's theme, "*Safety – It's Personal*," reminds us that when it comes to safety, individual decisions can directly impact loved ones, friends, co-workers, and the entire Air Force family. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, more Airmen die in off-duty mishaps than at any other time of year. We are determined to reverse this trend.

Last summer, off-duty mishaps claimed the lives of 18 Airmen. Sadly, many of these mishaps were preventable. Seventy-two percent of these fatalities involved private motor vehicles, and almost half of these fatalities were alcohol-related. In some cases, victims did not wear seat belts.

We must lead by example and create a safety culture that highlights the importance of proper planning, sound risk management, and wise decision making. Smart choices may include steps as simple as starting a trip with proper rest, using personal protective equipment, observing posted speed limits, avoiding driver distractions like cell phones, and never driving under the influence of alcohol. Such decisions save lives.

Because one lost life is too many, we urge all Airmen to look out for one another, especially during the Critical Days of Summer. Thank you for your service, and all you do for our Air Force and our Nation.

Handwritten signature of Michael B. Donley in black ink.

Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

Handwritten signature of Norton A. Schwartz in black ink.

Norton A. Schwartz
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

Handwritten signature of James A. Roy in black ink.

James A. Roy
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force