



Admiral's Corner

From Commander, Naval Safety Center



Self-inflicted Punishment

I will admit that I've done some boneheaded things in my life, and, each time, I looked back at the situation in disbelief and asked why. Maybe I made a bad decision during a flight, or maybe it was a bad decision on the commute home from the squadron. Each bad decision, on its own, made me question my judgment—especially after a less-than-optimum postflight debrief. Afterward, I'd have to regroup and vow to improve my performance.

Whether flying or driving, a poor decision can be fatal. Already this year, we have lost too many young Sailors and Marines because of PMV mishaps. We have also lost too many aviators and aircraft. Human factors continue to be the primary causes for these mishaps, which tells me that each mishap was preventable, and our losses were self-inflicted.

Leading this issue is an interview with VADM Massenburg, Commander, Naval Air Systems Command. He shares his views on where naval aviation is today and where it needs to go. The future of naval aviation will bring many changes in the way we do business and, more importantly, how we get the mission accomplished. Building efficiencies of people and materials will allow us to meet today's needs while taking on tomorrow's challenges.

If aviation safety is to continually improve, then we must effectively use the tools we have. Hazard reports are one of our best tools to identify

and fix our problems. Because problems won't fix themselves, everyone must take the lead and be part of the fix. Our *Approach* staff receives articles pointing out the value of proper reporting, and this issue contains several articles that reinforce how reporting can make improvements—but, you have to get proactive and complete accurate reports.

The inside back cover contains information to help us make the right and timely decisions that will help reduce PMV mishaps. The Critical Days of Summer starts Memorial Day and goes through Labor Day, but don't view this period as a start to driver safety—every day is critical, and every day can bring tragedy. Now is the time to refocus on preventing our No. 1 killer. Since Oct. 1, 2005, we have lost 68 Sailors and Marines on the highways (through Feb. 26). Our Critical Days of Summer campaign provides information and points of contact to assist every command prevent PMV and off-duty mishaps.

Whether the topic is driver safety or aviation safety, the goal is to eliminate mishaps and the self-inflicted punishments as the result of poor decisions. We can't allow ourselves to be our worst enemy.

RADM George Mayer