



# Admiral's Corner

From Commander, Naval Safety Center



## Taking Care

**A**re you taking care of your people? I realize this is a basic question that shouldn't need to be asked. But, are you?

There are two topics I want to discuss with you: motor-vehicle safety and casualty-evacuation missions. Both topics revolve around taking care of our people.

We're in the middle of the Critical Days of Summer, which means we should be concentrating on keeping our folks safe on the highways and in off-duty activities, and ready to do our mission. This is the worst year in 14 for private-motor-vehicle deaths, which is tragic.

Despite all our efforts, we continue to lose our finest in preventable mishaps. That's why I asked the beginning question. It doesn't matter where you fit in on the leadership spectrum; every Sailor and Marine is your responsibility. Take that responsibility personally; I do. Keep stressing motor-vehicle safety through the critical days and beyond.

The Naval Safety Center has resources to help you in this challenge. We recently published a special-issue, traffic-safety magazine called *Traffic 5100*. This valuable tool has a wealth of information you can use to prevent PMV mishaps. You should have copies in your spaces, or view the online version at: [www.safetycenter.navy.mil/media/traffic5100/](http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/media/traffic5100/).

The period from Memorial Day to Labor Day, which should be a time to enjoy summer, all too often is a time to mourn the death of a relative or friend on the highways or in an off-duty activity. Each summer we provide a variety of resources for each week. Whether you're organizing a safety stand-down, preparing a

brief, or looking for material for your local newsletter, visit our website for information on the Critical Days of Summer at: [www.safetycenter.navy.mil/seasonal/criticaldays/](http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/seasonal/criticaldays/).

In this issue, we have a special "Focus on CasEvac." These casualty-evacuation missions offer an excellent example of taking care of our people. At a critical, lifesaving moment, the actions of our aircrew and medical teams, along with the escort crews, must be quick and professional, or people will die when they could have lived. This CasEvac section includes mission perspectives from a flight surgeon and a corpsman who recently returned from Iraq. Three additional "There I was" articles, written by helo crew members, show just how dangerous these missions can be. The challenge is to have the medical and aircrew team take care of their patients and get them to the next level of medical treatment. While the intent of a CasEvac is to save lives, a mission gone wrong can end in tragedy. We can't allow the blue threat, ourselves, to interfere with mission success.

Sharing information and real-life scenarios is good for our profession, but our intent with this "Focus on CasEvac" is for these articles to be the catalyst for aircrew- and medic-training sessions and professional-learning opportunities. If our performance is improved or new tactics are developed in the CasEvac mission, then we're moving in the right direction, and we achieve mission success.

Take a look around your squadron and ask, "Are we doing everything possible to take care of our people?"