

Admiral's CORNER

FROM COMMANDER, NAVAL SAFETY CENTER



How can a computer-based program, which is only used after an accident or mishap has occurred, help keep Sailors and Marines safe? Because it helps us look to the future. Unlike the old ways of reporting, WESS is designed to ask in-depth questions. In order for analysts at the Naval Safety Center to make specific recommendations to the fleet, we need to know all the facts. WESS makes it possible for you, the person entering the report, to provide those critical details that may stop the same mishap from occurring again down the road.

There is no doubt that WESS requires a great deal of information. Many details may seem insignificant, but taken as a whole they help us see the big picture about practices and behaviors that might be putting our Sailors and Marines at unnecessary risk.

Our mission is to save lives, and you are helping us do that through your WESS reports. This user's guide focuses on some of the most common submission errors in the reporting process. It also gives detailed answers to some of your most common questions. There is information that applies to many types of WESS reports, and there are also sections tailored to your specific community. This is not a substitute for the WESS user guides and tutorials that can be found on the Naval Safety Center's website at <http://safetycenter.navy.mil/wess/tutorial/default.htm>. I urge you to familiarize yourself with these tools.

WESS is not a perfect system. Many of you have contacted us with concerns, and we are diligently fixing problems as they are brought to our attention. Keep it up. Your feedback is vitally important to making this tool as user-friendly as possible. Please keep us informed of any issues you are having.

WESS has the potential to be an outstanding tool in our fleet-wide effort to keep Sailors and Marines safe, but the analysis we perform at the Naval Safety Center is only as good as the data you input through your reports. Your diligence is appreciated—it is making a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Mayer".

RADM George Mayer