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The editors reserve the right to edit all manuscripts for readability and good taste.

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HOW DO YOU VIEW SAFETY?

In honor of Black History Month, this issue highlights the contributions made by The Tuskegee Airmen, and the impact they have made on the Air Force. Under tremendous pressure to succeed, their commanders understood that success lays in the details and eliminating mistakes by striving for excellence in everything they did. The Tuskegee Airmen shattered stereotypes that helped end segregation while setting impressive unit records of excellence — their mark of over 200 bomber escort missions without losing a single bomber is only the “tip of the iceberg.” The Tuskegee Airmen took personal pride in their work, and emphasized strict air discipline during all phases of flight to eliminate mistakes and compile an impressive combat record by stressing operations safety, from the crew chiefs to the pilots and operations officers — all before safety became the formal program it is today. The Tuskegee Airmen are “Trailblazers” in every sense of the word and for that, we salute them.

Another story in this issue connecting WWII to present is “Pineapple Juggling” which points out the hidden dangers posed by old war souvenirs hidden away in many forgotten closets and attics. No matter what condition they are in, treat all munitions as live, from the artillery shell at the local flea market, to the “found” munitions discovered during construction. Like our predecessors, there’s always the temptation to collect mementos of our travels and experiences — consider the dangers; don’t bring the war home with you. Know the rules when it comes to “war trophies.”

Risk mitigation is a large part of the safety effort, and is featured in both of the safety posters in this issue. The first focuses on the “Fast and Furious” consequences of illegal street racing; a dangerous, negative trend affecting everyone. The second features the Motorcycle Mentorship program, which is being implemented to reduce two-wheel mishaps by allowing experienced riders to demonstrate responsible motorcycle riding habits and skills to new riders while having fun in the process.

Finally, we need your stories and feedback on your safety magazine — *The Combat Edge*. Send your comments directly to our editor on what you like, and what you want improved to make the command’s magazine better. As always, keep safety proactive — make it your Combat Edge!

Colonel Creid K. Johnson,
ACC Director of Safety

