

Combat Edge



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We have 96 days to set a "Critical" record...

We're less than a week into the 101 Critical Days of Summer — are you doing all you can to help the command prevent off-duty mishaps? As the days grow longer, and schools let out, ACC members will be spending more time taking part in sports and recreational activities, and hitting the road to visit with family and friends this summer season. ACC experienced 5 "Class A" ground mishaps (4 fatalities and one permanent, total disability) and 219 Sports and Recreational injuries in 2004. Last year's mishaps resulted in 346 hospital days and 1,549 days on quarters at a cost of over 2 million dollars. Every preventable mishap resulting in a lost work day or loss of life impacts our combat capability, and forces others to pick up the slack to get the mission done. Consider the consequences before acting, take the time to do things safely, use personal risk management, and wear all required personal protective equipment — we can't afford not to.

The answer: "Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne." If you're from the Midwest, the question is, "What are four children's names?" However, if you are a Floridian, your question would be: "What are the names of the four strongest hurricanes to hit Florida and the East Coast in 2004?" As a reminder, the first of June marks the beginning of hurricane season and stays in effect until the last day of November. If you live in a hurricane danger area, gather your storm supplies, make home repairs, and review evacuation routes and procedures before a storm threatens your area. We have the ability to detect hurricanes and predict their landfall, whereas tornados, lightning, and ash oods provide little in the way of warning, making it necessary to identify where to seek shelter and when, *before* severe weather hits this summer.

While we can't realistically eliminate risk during on- and off-duty activities, we can manage and minimize its impact through preparation and by taking a proactive stance toward safety. The goal is zero mishaps this summer — make 2005 a record setting 101 Critical Days — let safety be your Combat Edge.



Colonel Creid K. Johnson,
ACC Director of Safety