



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 4TH AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS GROUP (USAFE)

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL 4ASOG PERSONNEL

28 Aug 03

FROM: CC

SUBJECT: Safety Watch

1. The Department of Defense has recently seen an increase in mishaps that dramatically affect the well-being and combat capability of our personnel and units. I would like to take some time to reemphasize my primary safety concerns.

2. Driving safety is always a focus but driving in Europe warrants a stronger look. Vehicle inspections are done annually but passing an inspection doesn't mean your vehicle is ready for high speed autobahn driving. Ensure your car is equipped and maintained for the type of driving you are using it for. Never exceed the speed that is safe for the driving conditions (e.g., rain, gravel, snow, fog, congested areas, etc). ADAC, the German automobile club, recommends a max speed of 130 km (81 miles) per hour. And if that's not enough, AFIs limit us to 81 mph in GOVs.

3. Drinking and driving is a non-starter. If you plan on drinking, ensure there is a designated driver. German DUI laws are extremely strict. If you are in an accident and have a BAC of .03 (a single beer), you will be convicted of impaired driving. If you are pulled over at a checkpoint and have a BAC of .05, USAREUR will suspend your license for 90 days. A BAC of .08 is drunk driving (6 month suspension) and .11 is considered criminal drunk driving (you may never drive in USAREUR again). Always drink responsibly.

4. Military life, deployments, and OPTEMPO put many stresses on our personnel and their families. All personnel should be aware of the warning signs of a potential suicide: irritability, impulsivity, alcohol abuse, anxiety, isolation, depression, and unkempt appearance. A strong support system is the key. Supervisors need to be aware of service member issues or changes in personality. They must also be available to provide advice, counseling or professional referrals. Finally, they must ensure spouses of deployed members are looked after and assistance is readily available if needed.

5. Remember then to always drive at a speed safe for conditions, have a designated driver, and take the team approach in helping each other out. It takes everyone's vigilance to keep us razor sharp and combat-ready -- we can't afford any losses!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Travnick".

WILLIAM R. TRAVNICK, Colonel, USAF
Commander