

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING THE TEXAN



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CSAF Launches New Initiative to Improve Communication With Airmen



Gen. Mark A. Welsh III
Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON - As part of a series of recent efforts to enhance communication with Airmen, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III released the first of a new video series called "Airman to Airman."

With all the issues facing the department over the last year, Welsh said the videos serve as an opportunity to inform Airmen on the challenges ahead, but more importantly, to help them understand the logic behind certain decisions.

"This is about keeping you informed about what the Air Force's position is on certain issues and

challenges," said Welsh. "We must do better at communicating these issues with our Airmen, they need to hear the whys and understand the reasons decisions are being made."

In his first message, Welsh talks about one of the repercussions of sequestration - becoming a smaller Air Force.

"How much smaller remains to be seen... it will be a balance between capability, capacity and readiness that we're going to be walking through the next 10 years," Welsh says in the video. "You just need to know that we're spending a lot of time and energy trying to figure out how to do this the right way."

In addition to Welsh's video messages, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody meets with Airmen for roundtables and other broadcast forums, they brought back Roll Call in September, and Welsh and Cody are both active on social media.

"Airmen have questions and concerns -- we need to be there to provide answers and address these concerns," Cody said.

The "Airman to Airman" videos will be distributed on af.mil, the Air Force Portal and various social media platforms.

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING THE TEXAN

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Cover:
Members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing participating in various events during 2013.
National Guard Graphic by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher

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NEW LEADERS



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher



Photo by 2nd Lt. Alicia Lacy



Photo by Master Senior Airman Chasity Lollis

Top left: Lt. Col. Rhonda Jahns takes command of the 147th Medical Group; Top Right: Col. Matthew Allinson takes command of the 147th Mission Support Group; Middle Left: Lt. Col. Francisco Dominguez takes command of the 272nd Engineering Installation Squadron; Above: Col. Terence Winkler takes command of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing; Right: Lt. Col. Nigel Atkins takes command of the 147th Air Support Operations Squadron

2013



CHIEF'S CORNER

Expanding Your Professional Experience

Recently, an opportunity to expand my professional experience presented itself. A volunteer was needed to go to the Air National Guard Readiness Center (ANGRC) to work as a weapons system manager (WSM) for September. There is no need to go into the details of the assignment, but I will say that I was reluctant about volunteering for the position. To go the ANGRC for 30 days and as a WSM seemed very daunting to me. What if I don't do well? What if they ask me questions and I don't know the answers? These concerns and other reservations kept entering my mind, but I decided to take a chance and volunteer for the position. I am glad that I did volunteer, as it was an eye opening experience. Yes, they did ask me questions. I didn't know all of the answers, but I found out the answers. In the following days at the ANGRC, I learned about many areas of working at the strategic level that were quite revealing. (See Air Force Instruction 36-2618, *The Enlisted Force Structure*, for more on the three different leadership and development levels.) All in all, volunteering to serve at the ANGRC was educational and professionally rewarding and I am glad that I volunteered for the opportunity.

What about you? What are you going to do to expand your professional experience? What opportunities are you going to volunteer for? If you are a junior enlisted airman you need to focus on learning your AFSC and becoming a good

airman. To expand your professional experience, you should consider becoming a member of the Rising VI Council and signing up for off duty education. Once become a noncommissioned officer, mentor another individual, join the Rising VI Council, and enroll in off duty education, volunteering for a squadron level or group level committee would be a good next step. If you are a senior noncommissioned officer, have you completed your Community College of the Air Force degree? Also, consider joining the Top 3 Council, volunteer on a wing-level or state-level committee, volunteer to be on an inspection team, or serve on a staff assistance visit to other bases. Going to other bases offers an opportunity to see how things are done at another unit, which can be quite enlightening.

Many junior enlisted airmen and Non-commissioned Officers want to expand their horizons and increase their professional experience, but they have their reservations or don't know what opportunities are available. First, talk to your supervisor and let him or her know that you are interested in such opportunities. Secondly, keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to volunteer. Lastly, don't be afraid to take a chance and volunteer. It will more than likely be worthwhile for you and the wing.

Chief Master Sgt. Walter Zelezniak, Jr.
147th Maintenance Group

Air Force Holiday/Winter Safety Campaign 2013 SAFE 'n SOUND, All Year Round

Another holiday and winter season is upon us. The seasonal activities and celebrations that we participate in all have unique risks. Being aware of these risks and preparing to the best of our abilities, helps keep everyone Safe 'n Sound.

The Air Force Ground Safety Holiday/Winter campaign will run from 22 November 2013 through 2 January 2014. This year we've looked at the on- and off-duty mishap data for Class A, B and C. During the 2012 season, private motor vehicle and sports and recreation remained the categories with the greatest number of mishaps in Class C (231). Unfortunately, zero fatalities escaped us once again; we lost four Airmen – three of the four were vehicle related.

To help mitigate some the vehicle mishaps and provide an additional resource for supervisors and commanders, Air Force Ground Safety has implemented CAC-enabled TRiPS, Travel Risk Planning System. Staying extra vigilant throughout the season and an increased effort in trip planning and preparation, are part of the formula for everyone to return after the holidays Safe 'n Sound.

Topics to Discuss

- The Long and Winding Road
- Christmas Lights
- Super Skier's Last Race
- I Just Want to Celebrate
- Ice Ice Baby
- Cold Weather Blues

Additional information is located on the User Information drive in the Safety Information folder/2013 Winter Safety folder.



Roll Call

Airmen: Winning the Fight. Strengthening the Team. Shaping the Future.

November 25 2013

Two Words, Two Syllables, Two Seconds

Thank You. Those two little words pack a powerful punch. When conveyed with sincerity, a small note of thanks can heighten an Airman's self-worth, increase the motivation they need to move forward, and ultimately ***Strengthen Our Team.***

Two little words, two syllables...less than two seconds. We should use them more often.

We've been through a lot this year; we've been challenged on all fronts. Today we are still at war and actively engaged around the world. The impacts of sequestration have been unprecedented and we continue to work through this new reality. Readiness has declined and unfortunately we've seen our civilian Airman furloughed, twice. Yet through every challenge our Airmen and their families push forward. You serve our nation proudly and are the reason we remain the most dominant airpower in the world. For that, we owe you our thanks.

As fellow Airmen, we - Secretary Fanning, General Welsh and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Cody - thank you for your loyalty and perseverance. We are remarkably proud to lead this team. Everything you do, from the sacrifices you make to the endless actions you take to accomplish the mission, contributes to our greatness. We are forever grateful for you and your families' service.

We also ask that each of you pass on the gratitude to the members of your team...not just from us, but from you.

When you gather as a group, look around the room. Consider the impact your fellow Airmen have on your team. Who goes above and beyond? Who does the little things that ease the stress of your day? Who does it all without expecting an ounce in return? Find those people - our bet is they make up your entire team - and say thank you. Pass on the gratitude they absolutely deserve...sometimes it's just that simple.

Every year we set a day aside to give thanks. That day, Thanksgiving, is soon upon us. We'll gather with family, friends and fellow Airmen and reflect on the many things we often take for granted. We go through a lot to serve our nation. We are focused, we are busy and we are often stressed, but know you can truly make a difference - you can ***Strengthen Our Team*** - with two little words, two syllables...less than two seconds...Thank You.

The World's Greatest Air Force
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Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.

SENIOR LEADERS VISIT



Photo courtesy of Air Combat Command Public Affairs



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher

Top: Gen. Michael Hostage, Commander, Air Combat Command, met with members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing at the units Fort Polk Launch and Recovery Element; Above Left: Vice President Joe Biden Speaks to Col Matthew Allinson and Chief Master Sgt. Marlon Nation during a stop at Ellington Field; Above Right: Staff Sgt. Nathan Bell explains the capabilities of the MQ-1 Predator to Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, Senior Enlisted Advisor to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

2013

Prepare now for tax season, Defense Department official advises

By Terri Moon Cronk
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (12/3/13) - With a month left before the start of tax season, service members should begin gathering documentation to file their 2013 taxes, the director of the Pentagon's office of family policy and children and youth said.

In a recent interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel, Barbara Thompson suggested visiting the Military OneSource website for tax filing resources, and to learn what will be necessary to file, such as W2 forms, Social Security numbers and receipts for deductions such as child care, education, medical expenses and donations, among other write-offs.

And tax preparers at Military OneSource will do short-form tax filing free of charge for service members and their families, Thompson said.

Relocations and deployments have

tax implications, Thompson noted. For example, deployed service members can receive an extension to file taxes after the normal April 15 filing date, she said. "It's very helpful to have someone who is experienced to help you through the cumbersome issue of taxes and tax returns," she added. The tax preparers at Military OneSource are up to date on changes in tax laws, and can answer military-specific questions, Thompson said.

Installations also offer volunteer income tax assistance to service members and their families, while certain banks and credit unions provide education and training on tax preparation, Thompson said. She advised that service members organize



Tax-preparation assistance is available from experts at Military OneSource, the Defense Department said. (Graphic by militaryonesource.org)

their taxes by starting a file beginning each Jan. 1 for the following year's tax papers, such as receipts and other write-offs.

"You don't want to wait until the last minute," she said.

Taxes continued on page 10

This Month in History



Captain Henry T. Waskow.
Photograph published unaccredited in National Guardsman, January 1960.

1943

San Pietro, Italy - The 36th Infantry Division (TX) suffers heavy losses in capturing this town on the road to Cassino, south of Rome. The battle was recorded by film maker John Huston and shown as a documentary in American theaters. Even before the film hit the theaters many Americans knew the story of one of the participants in this attack, Captain Henry Waskow. He enlisted in Company I, 143rd Infantry, 36th Division, Texas National Guard in June 1935. By the time of this battle he had risen through the ranks to captain, commanding Company I. He and the men of his company were made famous through the stories of the newspaper reporter Ernie Pyle, who accompanied them during much of the campaign. Pyle had a nationally syndicated audience and his stories were followed across the country. Unlike many reporters, he did not focus much on the 'big picture' battle stories, preferring instead to highlight the individuals involved in the actual fighting on the frontlines. Pyle was often referred to as the "soldier's voice." In this role he wrote often about Waskow and his men. One of Pyle's best-remembered stories told of the story of the death of Waskow on December 14, while trying to capture San Pietro. He described how his men removed his body from the battlefield strapped over the back of a mule and how they,

tough, seasoned veterans of months of combat, wept over his loss. Pyle's writing was so touching that many readers felt they had lost a friend themselves without ever having known Waskow.



First Sergeant's Segment

Why did you become a First Sergeant?

I became a First Sergeant because I wanted to be in a position to be able to help people. I've had both types of First Sergeants in my career; the good and the bad. Both, however, have taught me valuable life lessons and have helped me to mature into the person that I am. I have learned from their mistakes and their achievements. No First Sergeant is alike, but the end goal is, "Are you taking care of the people?"

Sadly, I have seen a slight demise in leadership in some areas and I don't want to be a part of the problem. I want to be a part of the solution and if I can be of help to at least one person, I have done my job, but the goal is to reach as many as possible. Even though I am young, I still come from the old school military where the mentality was, "It takes a village." A mentor doesn't have to be your direct supervisor; they can be anyone to include those who have less rank than you. Open mindedness is the key to exploring new endeavors and discovering how to make things better.



Master Sgt. Lorna Major
147 Medical Group 1st. Sgt.

What do you enjoy about being a First Sergeant?

Being a First Sergeant may not be easy to some, but overall it's very rewarding. I enjoy it when people can come to me and entrust that I can work to help resolve their problems. I have found that sometimes people just want someone to talk to. I wouldn't call it a "dumping ground" but more less an outlet to recover and revamp. A First Sergeant cannot resolve every problem, but it's nice to know when you have a concerned ear that genuinely wants to assist. I have enjoyed getting out and talking to people and seeing what's going on in the work areas. Talking to people gives me the awareness I need to be able to assist and also lets the people know I'm not buried somewhere in my office under mounds of paperwork. I love talking to people! I wouldn't necessarily call myself a social butterfly, but I love having the opportunity to converse with people no matter who they are. I find that there is a story to explore and learn from each individual no matter whom the person is.

Lastly, I enjoy being a part of leadership that can help with change. Often times people resist change because they either fear the unknown result or they simply 'like things the way they are'. I am a firm believer that change is not always a bad thing, in fact it has CHANGED my perspective of life in general and how I have viewed things over the years. Change has matured me in ways that had I stayed complacent I would never have been able to appreciate the greater things life has to offer. Dwight Eisenhower stated, "Neither a wise nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him." With that said, I encourage those who have thoughts of becoming a First Sergeant to step forward and take on a job like no other. You'll be glad you did.

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GUARD FACTS

Did you know?

The first African-American general officer in the U.S. Army, Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, got his start in the District of Columbia National Guard as a lieutenant in 1898.

The Official 147th RW Facebook page is www.facebook.com/147RW

RETIREMENTS



Photo by Senior Airman Chasity Lollis



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Porcelle



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Porcelle



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher



Photo by Senior Airman Chasity Lollis

Top left: Col. Jack Daniel
 Top right: Senior Master Sgt. Ida McClam
 Middle left: Senior Master Sgt. Priscilla Malone
 Middle center: Chief Master Sgt. Valorie Compton
 Above: Chief Master Sgt. A. C. Brown
 Left: Col. Walter Rustmann

2013

Taxes continued from page 7

Service members and families who prepare long-form taxes with deductions such as mortgages and rental properties might want to consider hiring a tax expert to file for them, Thompson said. "It's best to get advice to make sure you have everything covered," she added.

People who do their own taxes need to stay on top of current tax information, Thompson said. "Sometimes tax laws change, so you have to be really smart about doing your own taxes," she added. States' tax laws often vary, too, she said, and because of relocations, some service members have to file local taxes in more than one state. "That's where [tax consultants] can really be of great value to make sure you know what the requirements are for states," Thompson said.

Filing federal and state tax returns usually results in either a tax refund or money owed back to the government. Expecting to receive a tax refund, but instead finding out that money is owed

can be a shock, Thompson said. Looking at W2s to determine how much money in taxes is being withheld is a good indicator of whether or not one will owe money, she suggested.

Service members who receive a tax refund face important decisions on what to do with the money, Thompson said.

"Do you use it to buy down debt, or put it in a savings account?" she asked, advising people to not blow their tax refunds in a spending frenzy of unnecessary purchases.

A tax refund also can be deposited into a retirement savings account, she added. "It's important to think about what you're going to do with that money," she advised, "and how you can best utilize it for your financial well-being."

Meeting with a financial planner to learn the "lay of the land," and what tax deductions might apply to a service member's finances is a good idea, Thompson said. "It's really important to be savvy about that."

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DEPLOYMENTS



Photo courtesy of 147th Services Squadron



Photo courtesy of 147th Air Support Operations Squadron

Above Right: Members of the 147th Services Squadron deployed to Washington D.C. in support of the Presidential Inauguration; Above Right: Members of the 147th Air Support Operations Squadron deployed to Czechoslovakia for training.

2013

BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC) ¹	TYPICAL EFFECTS	PREDICTABLE EFFECTS ON DRIVING
.02%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Some loss of judgment ▶ Relaxation ▶ Slight body warmth ▶ Altered mood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Decline in visual functions (rapid tracking of a moving target) ▶ Decline in ability to perform two tasks at the same time (divided attention)
.05%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Exaggerated behavior ▶ May have loss of small-muscle control (e.g., focusing your eyes) ▶ Impaired judgment ▶ Usually good feeling ▶ Lowered alertness ▶ Release of inhibition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reduced coordination ▶ Reduced ability to track moving objects ▶ Difficulty steering ▶ Reduced response to emergency driving situations
.08%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Muscle coordination becomes poor (e.g., balance, speech, vision, reaction time, and hearing) ▶ Harder to detect danger ▶ Judgment, self-control, reasoning, and memory are impaired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Concentration ▶ Short-term memory loss ▶ Speed control ▶ Reduced information processing capability (e.g., signal detection, visual search) ▶ Impaired perception
.10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Clear deterioration of reaction time and control ▶ Slurred speech, poor coordination, and slowed thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reduced ability to maintain lane position and brake appropriately
.15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Far less muscle control than normal ▶ Vomiting may occur (unless this level is reached slowly or a person has developed a tolerance for alcohol) ▶ Major loss of balance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Substantial impairment in vehicle control, attention to driving task, and in necessary visual and auditory information processing

¹ Information in this table shows the BAC level at which the effect usually is first observed, and has been gathered from a variety of sources including the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the American Medical Association, the National Commission Against Drunk Driving, and <http://www.webMD.com>.

Traffic Safety

Many of our traffic mishaps involve alcohol. Often times, the investigator mentions the fact that “alcohol was a factor” but don’t really elaborate on how alcohol was a factor. The effects of alcohol are well known and documented. In 2012 Texas lost 3,398 people to traffic accidents, of those 1,296 or 38% were alcohol related compared to the US average of 31%.

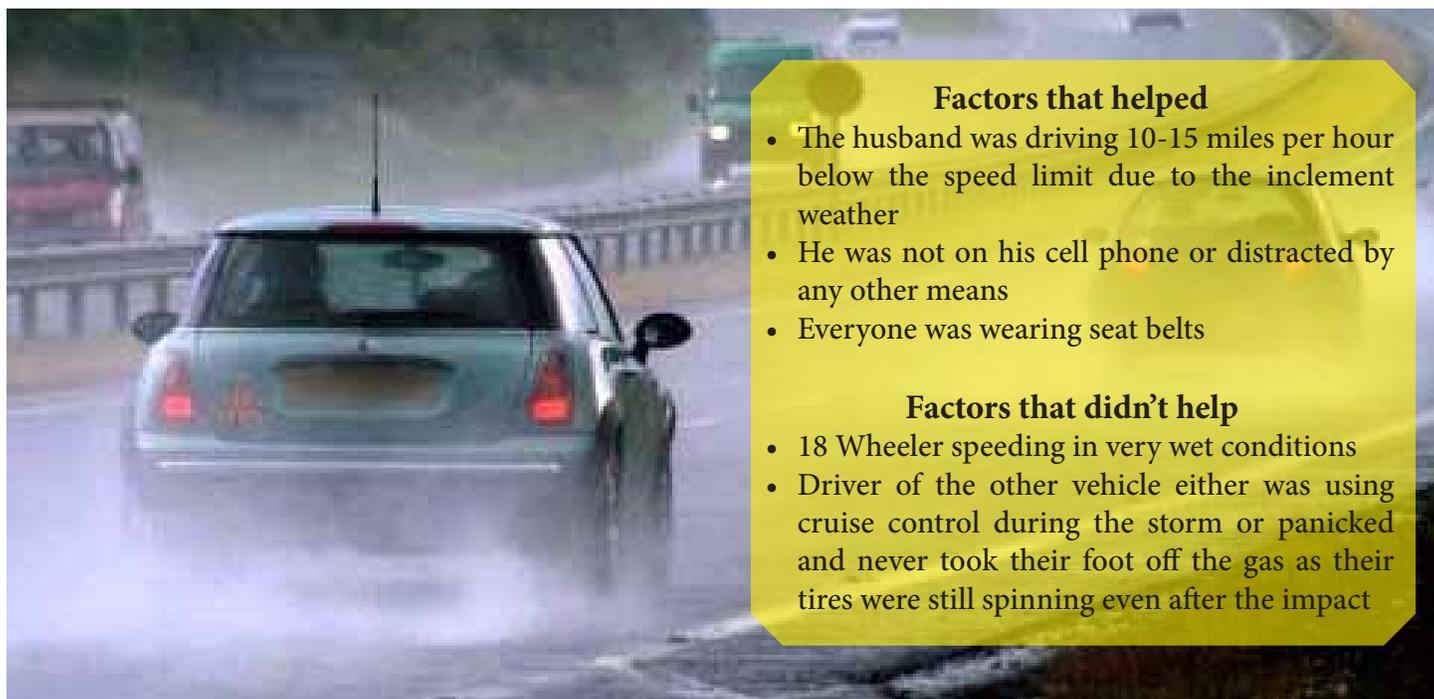
The Centers for Disease Control has published the below chart which states the predictable effects on driving at different blood alcohol levels.

During the Holiday Season – Please have a plan so drinking and driving is not the end result of a good evening or outing. Beside the legal effect, which can ruin careers, lives can be endangered. Please have a plan prior to the start of all drinking, so behind the wheel is not an option. Enjoy your holidays safely!

147th Reconnaissance Wing member’s family vacation goes wrong

While traveling to Tennessee for the holidays to visit family, a 147 RW family experienced a very frightening event. To set the scene, it was raining very hard and the family was traveling on a multi-lane interstate in a SUV style vehicle. The husband moved to the far right lane of the interstate and was going approximately 50 mph. An 18 wheeler sped past them and sprayed the vehicle with a heavy load of water. At that point the SUV started hydroplaning across the freeway. A car hit the family’s SUV from behind causing a spin. The SUV came to a stop just short of the concrete barrier, facing the right way of traffic flow. However, the car that hit them from behind also spun out and ended up facing the family approximately 30 feet away. The car’s driver either never took their foot off the gas or had it on cruise control, because they rammed into the front of the SUV at full speed.

In summary, both vehicles were totaled, but thankfully everyone walked away with only minor injuries. The vehicles will be replaced, but the cautious actions and safety precautions taken by the military family saved their lives. Their names have been removed for personal reasons; however this hits close to home, to close. This could happen to anyone of us or our family members.



Factors that helped

- The husband was driving 10-15 miles per hour below the speed limit due to the inclement weather
- He was not on his cell phone or distracted by any other means
- Everyone was wearing seat belts

Factors that didn’t help

- 18 Wheeler speeding in very wet conditions
- Driver of the other vehicle either was using cruise control during the storm or panicked and never took their foot off the gas as their tires were still spinning even after the impact



The 147th Reconnaissance Wing Rising VI promotes professionalism and camaraderie for ranks Airman Basic through Tech. Sgt.

Rising VI coins now available



Rising VI coins are in and are available for \$7.00 at meetings and also by contacting Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Alicea, Rising VI treasurer.

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING DINING FACILITY

Saturday
7 December 2013

- Roast Turkey
- Baked Ham
- Lasagna
- Cornbread Dressing
- Glazed Sweet Potatoes
- Rice Pilaf
- Green Beans
- Corn on the Cob
- Carrots
- Turkey Gravy
- Dinner Rolls
- Assorted Salads
- Assorted Drinks
- Assorted Deserts

Meal Price: \$7.60

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Safety Shorts



How do I Avoid Hydroplaning?

(<http://www.safemotorist.com>)

The following are important tips to avoid hydroplaning:

1. Keep your tires properly inflated
2. Rotate and replace tires when necessary
3. Slow down when roads are wet: the faster you drive, the harder it is for your tires to scatter the water
4. Stay away from puddles and standing water
5. Avoid driving in outer lanes where water tends to accumulate
6. Try to drive in the tire tracks left by the cars in front of you
7. Turn off cruise control
8. Drive in a lower gear
9. Avoid hard braking
10. Try not to make sharp or quick turns

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher



Photo by Capt. Fredy Reyes



Photo by Senior Airman Chasity Lollis



Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Promis Harris



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher

Top left: Members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing with retired Gen. Michael Moseley at Veterans Day luncheon hosted by the Houston Rotary Club; Top right: A member of the 147th Air Support Operations Squadron (in red) participates in a Battle of the Badges charity event in Galveston, TX; Middle left: Members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing score 2nd place in a charity kickball tournament in Houston, TX; Middle right: Members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing Security Forces Squadron help make Alexander Torres's wish to be a soldier come true, during his Make-A-Wish day at Ellington Field; Above left: Master Sgt. Promise Harris with Houston Texans quarterback Matt Shaub during a Veterans Day event at Reliant Park in Houston, TX; Above right: Members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing help restore a Vietnam Vets' home.

2013

Holiday Cyber Tip

As you, your friends, and your family spin up for the festivities it is important to remember to increase your awareness and take steps to better protect yourself. Especially since more than 70% of businesses reported they do not take additional protective measures during this period of heightened threat and impact. How big an impact? Estimates show losses of up to \$500,000 per hour or \$8,000 per minute if a retail site is hacked or disabled during this period. The average cost to victims of identity theft and fraud has been estimated around \$5,000, with the final cost after "resolving" the theft being over \$1,000. With some of the top threats being stolen financial information, malicious advertisements, malicious mobile apps and app fraud, users should exercise extreme caution during online and mobile shopping this season. A few helpful tips:

1. Always verify the publisher information on any mobile apps.
2. Keep antivirus, pop up blockers and anti-spyware services up to date.
3. Minimize the usage of your personal financial information in online and mobile environments; Credit Card Number, Checking and Banking details.
4. Do a quick review of the security and reputation of any site or app you are considering using; McAfee, Symantec, Google, and AVG all offer free site reviews.

Remember, be safe, protect your information, your money, your family and your livelihood, but have fun this holiday season!



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AMERICAN AIRMEN | SPIRITUAL WINGMEN



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BLDG 1057, ROOM 236

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TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE ON ISSUES INVOLVING
DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Public Affairs Seeking Stories

Looking for inspiring and/or interesting stories or ideas. Must be newsworthy and relevant to the 147th Reconnaissance Wing. Photos can be provided upon request.

If interested call 281-929-2662 or send an email to 147RW.PublicAffairs@ang.af.mil.