



To The Deckplates



Talking Points on Issues Relevant to the Navy's Chiefs Mess

101 Critical Days of Summer Release date: 23 May 2007

"There can be no greater concern to our Chief's Mess than the safety of our Sailors. Lead them. Guide them. Train them. But, first and foremost, it is up to each and every one of us to ensure they are living and working in the safest manner possible."

--MCPON Joe R. Campa

–You have no greater responsibility than the safety of our Sailors. I expect the Navy's Chiefs Mess to use all resources at their disposal to ensure each of our men and women are fully briefed on best safety practices.

–Deckplate Leadership will be the difference between success and tragedy. Chiefs must first engage their Sailors, then set the example. If we are to expect our Sailors to conduct themselves safely, we must do so ourselves.

–The period of time between Memorial and Labor Days is statistically the most dangerous for our Sailors. 38 million Americans will travel this weekend alone. 32 million will be on the nation's highways.

–The Safety Center predicts three dozen Sailors and Marines will die in motor vehicle accidents by the end of Labor Day Weekend. In the past ten days alone, six Sailors have died as a result of motorcycle accidents.

–The Safety Center has a Critical Days section on their website: www.safetycenter.navy.mil Use these resources, but remember: this should NOT be considered a time for computer-based training. Chiefs should be focusing on safety every day at Quarters. Your Sailors need to hear the conviction in your voice when you address the consequences of risky behavior.

–Pay particular attention to our youngest Sailors. Of the 264 Sailors/Marines who died in off-duty/recreational accidents between '02-'06, 79% were between the ages of 17 and 26.

"The men and women of our Navy are the heart of the Navy; and, if we cannot take care of them, then we are not doing what is expected of us."

--Honorable Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy