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A total safety culture within an organization can be defined as a culture in which individuals: hold safety as a value; feel a sense of responsibility for the safety of their fellow Soldiers, civilians and Family members, as well as themselves; and are willing and able to act on the sense of responsibility they feel toward those around them. That is, individuals must have the skills and tools necessary and be supported by their Leaders to go “beyond the call of duty” on behalf of the safety of themselves and others in their formations.

If Leaders are committed to safety, they must have a highly visible presence to express that support. How do you, as a Leader, demonstrate care and concern for the Soldiers, civilians and Family members in your charge in order to influence their behavior in a positive way? What kind of approach will have the highest level of success? In his recent Safety Update, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army (CSA), Gen. Casey asked every Leader to take a holistic look at their command environment and find ways to influence our Soldiers, Family members and civilians to use composite risk management.

Recently, our Army has experienced a slight rise in the off-duty accidental losses while also seeing a downward trend of on-duty accidental loss. Why is that? Direct Leader involvement and engagement has proven time and again to make the difference and, for our on-duty challenges, it has clearly been proven again. Leaders must take this engagement one step further, though, by taking an active interest in what their Soldiers are doing with their time off and by helping their Soldiers identify potential high-risk activities or behaviors that could cause serious injury or loss of life.

Peers play a large role in how Soldiers develop their sense of what’s right or wrong. Peers are just one of the three groups that influence our Soldiers on a daily basis; they can keep a situation from getting worse or leading to disaster. Soldiers are influenced by their friends, their “battle buddies,” and need to be brought into the fold of the “Band of Brothers and Sisters.” A source of many great safety messages can be found in our BOSS Safety Factor program (available online <https://crc.army.mil>). Soldiers must know what right looks like and develop their own “safety sense” by learning how to think. Leaders can help, along with the tools found on our site. The end state of this line of thinking will produce a desired – and needed – cultural shift in the way safety is viewed.

When Soldiers, civilians and Family members are habitually involved in a unit’s safety effort, there is a greater sense of ownership and pride. Leaders, in close cooperation with Families and communities and peers taking care of their own (the Band of Brothers and Sisters), build safer environments for our Army, both on and off duty. Leader’s Corner is a great place to find the tools to build a successful environment for our Soldiers to operate and can be found at <https://crc.army.mil/leaderscorner/>.

Leaders, peers and Families are charged with the protection of Soldiers both on and off duty. This responsibility can seem daunting for some by taking them well out of their comfort zone. The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center hosts a myriad of tools available online at <https://crc.army.mil> that will assist Leaders to successfully and safely complete their mission both on and off duty, while mitigating the harmful effects of risk. The CSA encourages leaders to “get creative” and solicit the support of Families and the community to help the Army save lives. Peers, Families and community members can find information on protecting their loved ones while they are off duty in the Family Engagement Kit and the BOSS Safety Factor program found on the USACRC Web site. With these tools, and the support of Leaders, Family members and the local community, our Army will maintain the strides made on duty, drive down the off-duty accident occurrences and continue to keep us Army Strong.

Army Safe is Army Strong!

WILLIAM T. WOLF  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding