



April 2008

Are you between the age of 18 and 30? Is this article pertinent to you? Do you ever feel Army leadership pens articles that are about you, rather than for you? Talk at you rather than to you? While you might think this is true, rest assured, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center writes articles especially for you.

The reason for this?

You (18 to 30-year-olds) are esteemed Teammates. You have a critical part in our Army's successes, both on and off the battlefield. We, as an Army team, haven't and won't be successful in our missions without you. Your presence and contributions are invaluable and the cornerstone of our successes.

What else do we know?

We know that you are all Soldiers with opportunities to be outstanding and influential Leaders. It does not require a high rank to make a Leader, but rather a Leader is a Soldier or Army member with an understanding and willingness to engage and do the right thing. This type of leadership can, does and continues to save lives.

Safety transformation is the shift in mind set from an older, reactive safety culture to a new, predictive mind-set that incorporates risk management practices and actions into daily activities. While our Army continues through a safety transformation, your actions, leadership and continued commitment are invaluable. You and your peers are integral to this transformation. Each time you engage, lead or help your fellow teammates do the right thing to prevent accidents, you are making our Army safe and Army strong.

We know our Warriors live and operate on the leading edge, however they should not be alone on that edge. Leaders must be there with them, stay engaged and take accountability. There is no such thing as an anonymous Leader. Leaders commit.

We know when accountable Leaders like you engage, the results immediately save lives and promote change in our Soldier's culture, instinct and insight into the Army's future. We know Preliminary Loss Reports (PLR) often reveal preventable mishaps where engaged Leaders could have made a difference. Someone always knows – someone knows when a platoon member just bought a motorcycle but never completed required training . . . someone knows when an aviator's reputation is to "cowboy" aircraft . . . someone knows when Soldiers routinely fail to buckle up when driving. That "someone" who knows must step up and engage; it will save lives.

We know we "Never Leave a Fallen Comrade." By engaging at the lowest level, you can prevent the fall of a fellow Soldier. The tools are there and the window of opportunity to effectively impact Soldiers is now. Successful safety preventive measures and actions are seamlessly woven into the fabric of our Army's culture.

So...my younger friends and fellow Soldiers. This is for you, about you, and enlists you as a fully-involved partner in making our Army a safer place to live, work and fight. Your dedication to duty is unmatched - always remember, what you do right now changes everything.

Army Safe is Army Strong!!

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Commanding