



The Safety Beacon is for informational purposes. Unit safety officers are encouraged to use the articles in the Beacon as topics for their monthly safety briefings and discussions. Members may also go to LMS, read the Beacon, and take a quiz to receive credit for monthly safety education.

May 2020

COVID-19, Risk Management, and the “New Abnormal”

George Vogt, CAP/SE

We are getting used to the idea that COVID-19 and the risks associated with the coronavirus will be with us for a while. With that in mind, the CAP Command Team and National Staff have been working diligently to provide guidance to leaders throughout CAP on how to care for our members while supporting the CAP missions that are so important to our Nation and our communities.

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen David Goldfein, is also facing the huge challenge of finding innovative ways the USAF can keep up its readiness and operations tempo while protecting Air Force Personnel from the virus. Right now, the focus isn't on “getting back to normal.” The focus is on how we can safely operate in what Gen Goldfein calls the “new abnormal.”

Whenever conditions change, new hurdles appear in front of us, or new challenges face us, the way we approach our jobs may change but the process remains the same. We analyze these new risks by applying the same risk management processes we've always used. What risks are brought on by this “new abnormal” and how can we control those risks?

Maj Gen Mark Smith summed it up last week when he said that the best way to combat the fear that is brought by new and unfamiliar risks is to “arm ourselves with the facts.” Those facts, provided by federal experts and folded into a sound risk management process, will provide the basis for CAP's plan to ease some of its COVID-19 restrictions on operations and meetings. You'll be hearing more about that in the coming days.

As our members face new challenges and new missions, while dealing with the “fear” of these new risks, sound risk management is resulting in innovative ways of continuing CAP's important work. Our new reliance on technology and virtual meetings are perfect examples of risk controls that allow us to conduct business efficiently while maintaining social distancing and slowing the spread of the virus.

Looking for a good safety education topic for your squadron meeting? Need a good lesson to bolster the risk management skills that are part of the Character element of our cadet program? Want a way to get your aircrews to focus on the “new abnormal” rather than the “old normal?” I recommend you get together and discuss ways to use risk management to figure out how your units can continue to flourish with our same levels of Integrity, Excellence, Volunteer Service, and Respect as we navigate the new abnormal.

safety@capnhq.gov

Cadet Takes on New Role in SWR Safety

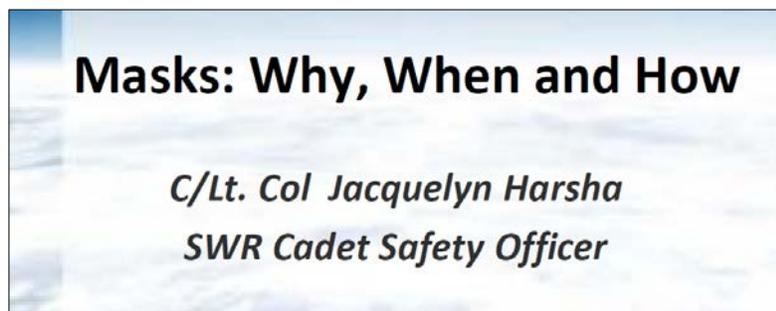
C/Lt Col Jackie Harsha, SWR Cadet Safety Officer

It is always great to see our cadets take an active role in CAP Safety. This month we'd like to feature C/Lt Col Jackie Harsha who has volunteered to help as the Southwest Region Cadet Safety Officer. Working with Col Bob Castle, the SWR/SE, she is bringing a unique cadet perspective to the safety program as well as helping provide some excellent safety education briefings.

Cadet Harsha joined CAP at the age of 12 and worked her way up through the ranks serving as her squadron Cadet Commander as well as other leadership roles. She had her first solo flight at the SW Powered Flight Academy in 2017 and has also attended several other NCSAs. She continues to be active in CAP despite a full schedule as a student at Oklahoma State University where she is a member of their AFROTC detachment!



Recently Cadet Harsha developed a comprehensive briefing on the use of face coverings during the COVID-19 crisis. It was distributed throughout the SWR as a monthly safety education topic, and we'd like to share it with you. We are especially impressed that it uses authorities such as the CDC to ensure the information is reliable and correct, as well as providing links for further information. These are great techniques when building a safety education briefing. [Click on the image below to download the briefing...](#)



Do you know of any other cadets taking an active role in CAP Safety?

Let us know so we can share their stories in the Beacon!

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See a Hazard?

Speak Up and Help Get it Fixed!

George Vogt, CAP/SE

This story begins when Lt Col Dave Mickle, the Asst Chief of Safety for the Arizona Wing, showed up to fly a CAP C-172 in Glendale Arizona.

The aircraft had just been moved to a new parking spot, in an outdoor covered parking area. This parking arrangement provided excellent protection against the hot Arizona sun, but Dave spotted a hazard. The vertical poles supporting the hangar were positioned behind the aircraft wings and there was a very real risk of damage to the ailerons if the aircraft were inadvertently pushed back too far during parking.



Lt Col Mickle went into action to reduce that risk. He worked with Lt Col Mike McCoy, the Squadron Ops Officer, and Maj Bob Enoch, the Asst Ops Officer, to come up with some solid risk controls.

Until lines could be painted, they came up with a plan to place the chocks where they would ensure clearance before the aircraft was moved. They put out the word that the airplane would NOT be parked by just one person ... solo pilots should get help or arrange to park it somewhere else on the ramp.



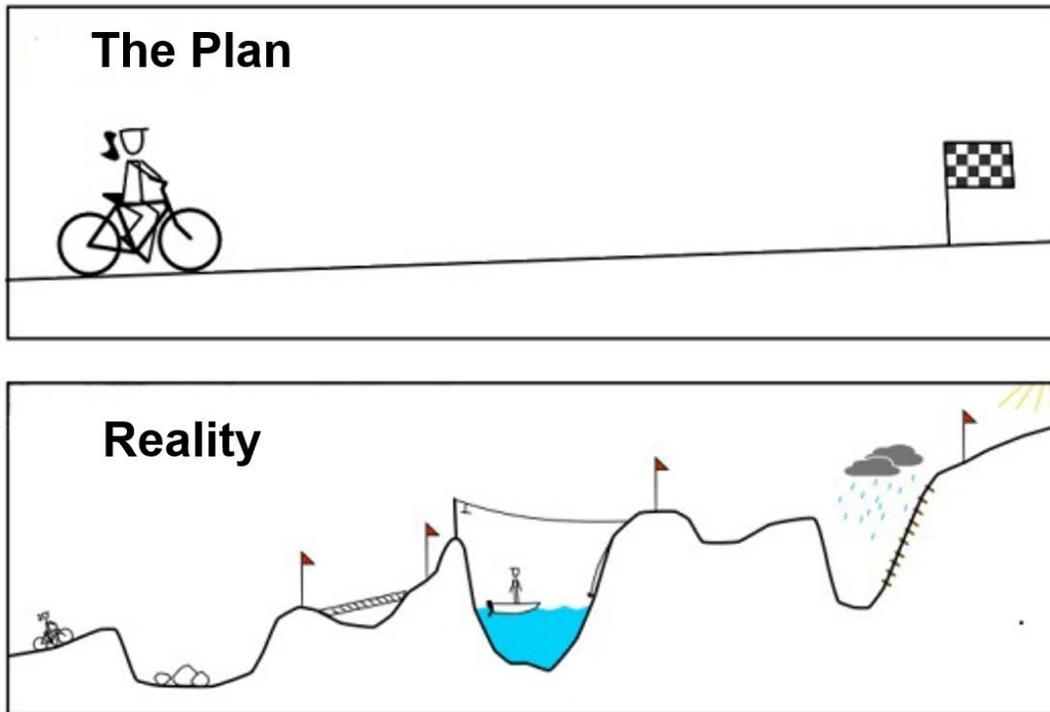
They worked with Mr. Scott Dalgliesh, who owns the hangar complex, to make some minor upgrades to the parking place. Mr. Dalgliesh also happens to be the father of C/A1C Samuel Dalgliesh of the Glendale Squadron. They painted some markings on the ground to help guide the parking effort, and reflective tape was put on the ceiling to help the tow-bar operator stay centered while steering. Now, in addition to the yellow lines to align the wheels, red lines and well-positioned chocks prevent the aircraft from hitting the poles. Other risk controls, including a CRM briefing before moving the aircraft, were also adopted and the new parking plan was placed in the aircraft's AIF where it could be easily accessed. The Squadron Commander, Capt Klara Olcott, wrote a memo to all members of the Glendale Composite Squadron informing them of the new parking plan.

This entire effort, which included Lt Col Mickle noticing the hazard, squadron leadership developing a plan, and risk controls completed and published, took just two days. Now THAT is a risk management success story! Identify Hazards, Assess Risks, Develop Controls ... A great team effort by the men, women, and cadets of the Glendale 388th Composite Squadron. Sharing the sentiments of the whole team, Lt Col Mickle says, "I was just doing my job." **Thanks for a job well done!**

Does your team have success stories to share? Let us hear them!

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Why Do We Need Risk Management?



This is one of our favorite illustrations of the importance of risk management.

No matter how well we plan, or how diligently we try to identify hazards and put risk controls in place, we can never be sure of what we will find around the corner. Conditions change, obstacles appear, and new challenges develop. We can develop risk controls that seem guaranteed to ensure stress-free activities, but hazards and risks we never anticipated are still bound to appear. THAT is why the *process* of real time risk management needs to be built into every plan.

The daily headlines tell us how COVID-19 has thrown kinks into everyone's plans for a smooth-sailing summer, forcing us to recognize the hazards and re-assess the risks that come with everything we do.

If you are truly committed to risk management as a process, you will take a fresh look at every task and every day, asking what new hazards there are and how you will control the risks we face.

Let risk management be your guide to the reality as well as the plan.

Safety Shorts

Keeping Up with Your Virtual Safety Meetings? Invite Us!!!

We've heard about squadrons, groups, and wings holding virtual safety meetings, or including some interesting safety education topics in their online meetings. Are you planning to do the same? **INVITE US!** The safety guys on the national staff would love to "stop by" when you are giving an online safety education topic. We can listen in, answer questions, or just say hi and thank you for the emphasis you are putting on risk management and safety.

Send us an invitation at safety@capnhq.gov!

NSOC Update

Plans are falling into place for the National Safety Officer College to begin in mid-August, as a virtual learning online school, lasting about 2 – 2 ½ months. Stayed tuned to the Beacon for more updates and save the shortcut to the [NSOC page](#) on gocivilairpatrol.com for the latest details.

"What are the primary risks you will face on this mission?"

If you have flown recently, you have seen the above question on your pre-flight risk assessment form in WMIRS. It is followed by a question asking you what actions you are taking to reduce these risks. What are the risk controls you are putting in place to reduce the risks that concern you most?

On a pretty regular basis, we look at the pre-flight risk assessments to see how well our aircrews are employing the risk management process. In some cases, we see "N/A" or "none" typed into that block. In our opinion, saying that there is no additional risk that concerns you means you are not effectively using risk management.

When was the last time you flew solo? Have you sanitized the airplane and are you wearing a mask? When did you last fly this airplane? With this fuel load? Any stress in your life? All of us have flown some complex missions, and we've also flown some that are quite routine. If a mission is so benign that you really think there is nothing you need to be concerned about, then you need to write "complacency" or "lack of awareness" as the primary risk, and then think about what you are going to do to control those risks. Do you agree? safety@capnhq.gov

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The CAP Safety Facebook page is gaining popularity, passing 300 members! Join us to chat about safety (and this Beacon) while sharing ideas with friends!
