



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**HEADQUARTERS, 55TH WING (ACC)**  
**OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA**

7 September 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL 55TH WING PERSONNEL

FROM: 55 WG/CC

SUBJECT: Commander's Safety Philosophy

1. Our mission always carries some level of risk. We are highly competent aviators—risk management prevents unnecessary risk and allows us to complete the mission. We need all of you to determine what types of risk are unacceptable.
2. Safety is an integral part of maintaining our lethality. Keeping our airmen and equipment safe is critical to mission accomplishment. Safety does not happen by accident—it is a product of thorough planning, risk mitigation, and threat identification. This process of continual risk reevaluation must be done at all levels and our Airmen should feel empowered to address safety concerns.
3. When addressing safety concerns, use the “See, Say, Say” method. If you *see* something is unsafe, *say* something, then get someone to acknowledge it and *say* it back to you. A communication not acknowledged is a communication not received. Do not let your concerns get lost in the background noise. Make sure the communication is acknowledged and understood.
4. The 55th Wing has adopted a Just Culture ideology. We strive to create an environment where people are not afraid to bring up safety concerns and lessons learned, even if those concerns are a result of their own mistakes. We must value learning over punishment. Commanders: ensure that Airmen understand what is expected of them and what they can expect from their commanders. We expect leaders to foster an environment of mutual trust in their units. Airmen: be willing to share mistakes so that others can learn from them. This will help us identify trends and prevent mishaps before they occur. Building trust and openly sharing lessons learned is a force multiplier.
5. Enforce safety standards at all times. Each one of you plays a vital role in safety and mishap prevention. Fix what you can and elevate the safety issues that you cannot. Stay disciplined, do the right thing, and stay safe.

MARK D. HOWARD, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

*The Sun Never Sets on the Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*