The Naval Safety Center (NSC) is celebrating its first half-century of doing business. For 50 years, the Safety Center has been an essential part of naval readiness. It is the Navy and Marine Corps’ one-stop safety shop that gathers information from the fleet, then analyzes and interprets data to help Navy and Marine Corps military personnel and civilians develop programs that meet their safety awareness and injury-prevention needs.

Established in 1951 as the Naval Aviation Safety Activity, it collected, evaluated and published information on aviation safety. The Activity also advised the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps on all phases of aviation safety. As the Activity grew, it added a Naval Aviation Safety Division and was renamed the Naval Aviation Safety Center. The Aviation Safety Center later merged with the Submarine Safety Center and added safety programs for surface ships and shore locations to form the nucleus for all safety programs within the Navy and Marine Corps. In 1993, a Marine Ground Safety detachment was assigned to the Naval Safety Center; in 1996, a Naval Reserve Safety Center unit was established.

Today, Commander Naval Safety Center serves as a special advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations on aviation, afloat, and shore safety programs for the Navy and Marine Corps. Under this command, the Naval Safety Center oversees a network of safety training, education, and mishap-prevention programs.

NSC ensures that every Sailor and Marine is trained on Operational Risk Management (ORM) to determine risks and hazards and minimize those hazards in their off-duty lives as well as on the
job. The NSC staff also investigates Navy and Marine Corps mishaps anywhere in the world and collects, maintains, and distributes mishap information to the fleet to help prevent future mishaps. To keep abreast of mishap trends, safety practices, and new developments in mishap prevention, NSC also works with international militaries, governments, and industrial-safety organizations.

NSC develops safety posters and safety seminars for various audiences, from generals and admirals to the Sailors and Marines in the fleet. NSC’s many publications help get important safety information to the Navy and Marine Corps. These publications include: Approach, for aviators; Mech, for the mechanics who keep the planes flying; Ashore, for shore-command and off-duty safety considerations; Fathom, for Sailors and Marines on our ships and submarines; Ship’s Safety Bulletin, for up-to-date technical information about ships; Flash, for submarine Sailors, and Diving Safetylines, for divers. In 1998, NSC inaugurated its web site, www.safetycenter.navy.mil. The site includes checklists, lectures and seminars, safety resources, instructions, common discrepancies found during safety surveys, and general safety information.

Through the above-mentioned NSC programs, publications and analyses, the military and civilian staff members at the Naval Safety Center have seen their efforts to reduce mishaps pay off. NSC aviation safety programs such as angled decks, Naval Aviation Maintenance Program, squadron-safety program, system-safety designed aircraft, aircrew training, and operational risk management have decreased the number of Navy and Marine aircraft destroyed in non-combat related mishaps from 776 in 1954 to 15 in 2001. So far, 2001 was the safest year in the U. S. Navy’s aviation history, well on the way to our goal of reducing losses to zero.
Fifty years ago, the newly established Naval Aviation Safety Activity paved the way for today’s *one-stop safety shop*, the Naval Safety Center. Over the years, the lessons we have learned from mishap information gathered and analyzed by NSC have been priceless assets that protect Navy and Marine Corps people. The safety training, publications, programs, and online resources provided by the NSC to the Navy and Marine Corps all around the world are highly successful in raising safety awareness, preventing injuries, and saving lives.

**ORM training ensures sailors avoid on the job and off duty hazards**

Naval Safety Center  
375 A Street  
Norfolk, VA 23511-4399  
(757) 444-3520