

Operational Risk Management

Common sense method to maximize operational capabilities and minimize risks can apply to the 101 critical days of summer

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Apprehension about changes and new ideas is natural, especially when one considers how efficient we are as an Air Force. However, maintaining dominance in our business requires continuous improvement and mishap prevention is one of several areas we can enhance. Operational Risk Management can benefit the Air Force's mission as well as benefit Air Force members personally.

ORM is a logic-based, common sense approach to making calculated decisions on human, materiel and environmental factors before, during and after Air Force operations.

It enables commanders, functional managers and supervisors to maximize operational capabilities while minimizing risks by applying a simple systematic process appropriate for all personnel and Air Force functions. It will enhance mission effectiveness at

all levels, while preserving assets and safeguarding health and welfare.

The intent of ORM is to formalize and consciously utilize the collective wisdom of the organization so everyone can benefit from it.

Introduction of ORM begins with initial Air Force or major command training and will be continuously built upon throughout a person's career. Initial awareness training will be supplemented and tailored to meet organizational unique requirements. Educational efforts will include training on tools and methods of assessing risk and clarifying behaviors that enhance proactive attitudes related to the mission, personnel safety and off-duty pursuits.

The six steps to the ORM process are:

1. Identify the hazard, threat, obstacle or high risk activity.

2. Assess the risk. What are the probabilities of failure and impact or severity of loss involved?

3. Analyze risk control measures. Investigate specific strategies or alternatives that eliminate or reduce the risk to acceptable levels.

4. Make control decisions that facilitate desired results with the least cost to people and resources. Unfavorable tradeoffs may indicate need to delay activity and regroup.

5. Implement risk controls as outlined in action plan.

6. Supervise and review throughout the activity or life cycle to validate that controls are effectively working.

This is ORM oversimplified to introduce the process in hopes it will be adopted as members plan summer activities. ORM is a systematic method we can use to ensure success during the 101 Critical Days. ■

Road Rage: Don't be a victim

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Road Rage, or aggressive driving, is taking a deadly toll on our streets and highways. It has become such a problem that the federal government is planning a major attack on aggressive driving, ranking it with drunken driving and seat belt use as top highway safety issues.

In their campaign to curb aggressive driving, Department of Transportation officials prioritized the most serious acts and ranked drivers who speed through intersections as the number one hazard on their hit list.

In 1996, more than 2,600 people were



killed in car crashes at intersections where a driver ran a red light. Another 6,000 were killed running stop signs and speeding through intersections.

Unfortunately, there is no set profile to help you identify aggressive drivers. They cut across gender, racial and economic lines. They can be young, inexperienced drivers or drivers with many years of driving experience. The only common thing about aggressive drivers is that they are life threatening hazards to other drivers who share the roads with them.

How do you protect yourself? Traffic safety experts offer the following suggestions.

If someone cuts you off, tailgates you, or is otherwise rude, your best response is to **stay focused on your own driving and ignore the other person's antics**. If they continue to follow or harass you, drive to a police station or look for a police officer and try to get his or her attention.

If you can't do either of these things, drive to an area where there are lots of other people where you can get help. Under no circumstance should you pull off the road hoping they'll just go by. It's much safer to stay mobile.

Be careful and alert at all intersections. Be prepared to stop at any intersection and always make sure the way is clear before proceeding. Don't gamble by speeding through amber/red lights because oncoming traffic may be concealed from your view until it is too late to avoid a collision.

Stay out of the far left lane and yield to the right for any vehicle that wants to overtake you. If someone demands to pass, let them pass.

Don't make rude gestures. You're playing Russian roulette if you raise a middle finger to another driver. Obscene gestures have gotten people shot, stabbed and beaten in every state in the nation.

Don't blow your horn at the driver in front of you the second the

light turns green - that can set off a stressed out driver. If you must get someone's attention in a non-emergency situation, tap your horn lightly.

Avoid blocking the right hand lane at intersections. In most areas, right-hand turns are allowed after a stop at a red light. Try to avoid the right-hand lane at intersections if you're not turning.

If an oncoming driver has his/her high beams on, don't retaliate by

turning your high beams on so you can "teach them a lesson."

Don't block traffic. If you're pulling a trailer or driving a cumbersome vehicle that impedes traffic behind you, pull over when you can do so safely so motorists behind you can pass.

Avoid a stare-down. If a hostile driver tries to pick a fight with you, don't make eye contact. This can be seen as a challenging gesture and may incite the other driver to violence. **1**

Cold water can zap good swimmers

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It's a bad idea to swim alone. If you get in trouble, you need someone else to help you out, but even then things can go wrong.

It doesn't always take inability or physical limitations to cause a drowning. Cold water can zap the strength of even a good swimmer.

Two friends went to a lake where they decided to swim out to some buoys 80 meters out. About halfway there, one of them turned back, intending to go to shore to talk with some friends. When the other person reached the buoys, he sat on one of them and saw a lifeguard's speedboat moving toward where he had last seen his friend. His friend was not in sight.

People on shore had seen the person having difficulties and notified the lifeguard, but the person drowned before he could be reached.

He'd been a good swimmer but had commented the water was cold.

Do you know how alcohol affects your body?

Effects on the central nervous system

Anesthetizes frontal lobes of brain which results in poor judgment and selfcontrol and disorganizes control center.

Effects on heart and circulatory system

Destabilizes cardiovascular system causing increased heart rate and blood pressure, diminishes ability of the body to adjust to ambient temperature and contributes to electrolyte imbalance which may cause muscle cramps.

Effects on the brain

Alters cells, blocks memory and dulls senses which results in increased risk of accidents, wasted materials and poor productivity, etc.

Check these facts

50 - 60 percent of highway traffic fatalities involve drunk driving and approximately 80 percent of fire deaths, 65 percent of drownings, 70 percent of fatal falls and up to 40 percent of fatal industrial accidents are linked to the use of alcohol.