

Taking keys can save lives

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Advertising Council's Innocent Victims public service campaign emphasizes the need to intervene and get the keys away from someone about to drive drunk.

Here are some tips from focus group research on how to get keys away from a drunk driver.

- If it is a close friend, try a soft, calm approach at first. Suggest they've had too much to drink, and it would be better if someone else drove or they took a cab.

- Try to make it sound like you're doing them a favor.

- If it is somebody you don't know well, speak to their friends and have them make an attempt to persuade the driver to hand over the keys.

- If it's a good friend, spouse or significant other, tell them if they insist on driving, you are not going with them. Call someone else for a ride, take a cab or walk.

- Locate their keys while they are preoccupied and confiscate them. Most likely, they will think they were misplaced and will be forced to find another mode of transportation.

(Information courtesy of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.)



Drunk driving statistics

- Drunk driving is the nation's most frequently committed violent crime.

- More than half of fatal car accidents in this country are alcohol-related.

- The number of deaths caused by drunk driving is the equivalent of a fully loaded 747 crashing three times a week, every week.

- An average of one person dies every 32 minutes in an alcohol-related crash.

- In the past decade, four times as many Americans died in drunk driving crashes as were killed in the Vietnam War.

- Half of all teenage fatalities are alcohol-related.

- Approximately two in every five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.

- Approximately a third of all drivers arrested for driving while intoxicated are repeat offenders.

- 21-34-year-olds comprise approximately half of all the drunk drivers involved in alcohol-related fatal crashes, and have the highest blood alcohol concentrations in fatal crashes.

- Approximately 79% of legally drunk drivers have BACs greater than .15 and 52% exceed .20.

- Drivers with BACs greater than .15 are more than 200 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than non-drinking drivers, and those with BACs greater than .20 are 460 times more likely.

- While drunk drivers account for only one percent of all drivers on the road at night and on weekends, they represent nearly half of all fatal crashes.

(Information courtesy of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the National Council on Drunk Driving.)

Commander's Connection



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Col. Sam Angelella (right) and 1st Lt. Charles Hamilton, 20th Services Squadron, hand out prizes at the Base Library's annual Toy Pet Show. The event took place during story time, held Tuesdays, from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., for children ages 2 - 5.

"Commander's Connection" is a link between Col. Sam Angelella, 20th Fighter Wing commander, and the Shaw community. Questions or concerns that can't be resolved through normal channels can be called in and recorded at 895-4611 or e-mailed to commandersconnection@shaw.af.mil.

*Callers should leave a name and telephone number in case questions need clarification. Comments of general interest may be published in **The Shaw Spirit**.*

Kudos

I took my nephew and two German exchange students to visit Shaw recently. When I arrived, Base Operations was unaware I wanted to look at aircraft and take pictures. Three ladies on duty went out of their way to make us feel comfortable and assist us. I would like to thank them and commend them for doing more than their job.

Editor's note: According to Shaw Air Force Base Instruction 31-101, *Installation Security Instruction*, Airfield Management and the Public Affairs Office are the approving authorities for photographs to be taken in restricted areas and within the flightline area. This approval must be in writing and in the possession of those members taking photographs. Security Forces will apprehend individuals taking pictures without written permission; the film will be confiscated and an incident/complaint report will be submitted to their unit commander, if applicable.

YOU DRINK, YOU DRIVE, YOU LOSE

The Shaw Spirit

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Calling all procrastinators: Start education today

By Master Sgt. Mary Hoffer
20th Fighter Wing
Manpower and Organization

Get your education started now! Don't wait until the last minute!

One day while sitting in class, I listened to my classmates introduce themselves. It quickly became apparent to me; they all had a common circumstance as to why they were there at that particular time.

A chief master sergeant within three months of retiring was taking three classes at a time trying to get his degree completed before he entered the civilian work force.

A captain separating at the end of the year decided he needed his advanced degree because a Bachelor's would not make him stand out from the competition.

A military spouse mentioned she was trying to prepare herself to enter the job market.

The common circumstance seemed to be, my classmates were waiting until the last minute to complete their education. Many were faced with attempting to finish their schooling while transitioning from military life

to the civilian workforce.

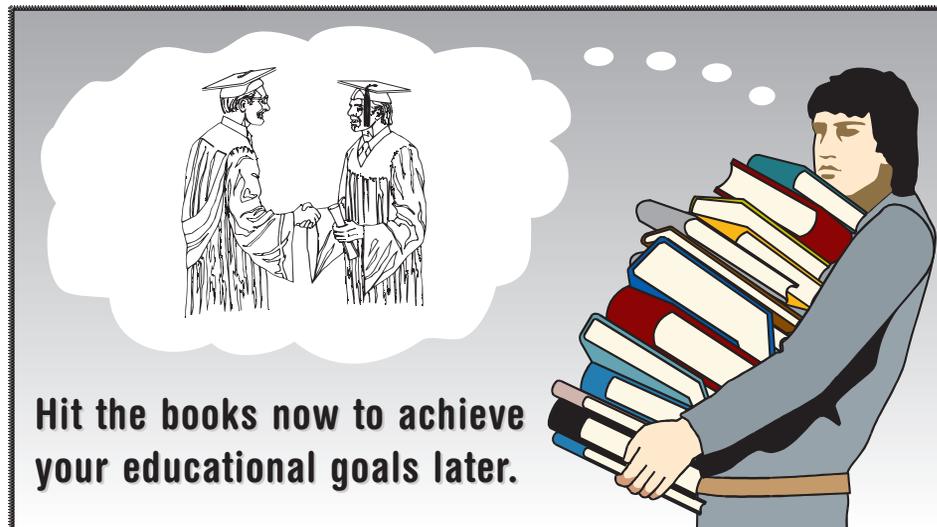
Throughout the course, my classmates' frustrations surfaced as they tried to complete everything, including moving preparations.

In order to avoid unnecessary frustration and stress, it's important to plan ahead and begin furthering your education as soon as possible.

Sometimes the hardest part is getting started. If you have never taken a class, enroll in a subject that interests you. By taking only one class, you can get your study habits tuned up and learn how to budget your time to meet homework assignments, duty responsibilities and family obligations. This method definitely worked for me.

I never thought I would take a college course because I didn't like school very much. I soon realized, however, that furthering my education was vital, so I began my journey by taking one course. The successful completion of that class gave me the confidence to continue on and eventually led me to enjoy the learning process.

Another reason you may be dragging your feet could be, you haven't decided what you want to do when you "grow up." This is a perfect reason to



Graphic by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

get enrolled in a subject you are slightly interested in because exposure to different subjects helps you discover what you really like or dislike.

I've heard too many times there is nothing to do here in Sumter. Take advantage of the time you have now because you may not have it later.

Use the 100% tuition assistance that's available. The only costs to you are books and time. When I was stationed at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, I took advantage of my "nothing to do" situation. Don't get me wrong, I did experience some of the

unique opportunities only Alaska has to offer, like hiking around a glacier and going white-water rafting in a glacier-fed river. However, to keep busy during the rest of my 3-year tour, I continued my schooling. Getting a degree did not happen overnight, but it did happen. You have to stick with it.

Now, as I near retirement, I can fully concentrate and prepare for this life transition with one less thing to worry about. What it took was for me to get started and take advantage of the time I had to invest in my education.

So, don't wait. Get educated now.

Three steps to effective leadership

NCO's, adopt this statement, "Leadership is my job," and say it with passion and pride!

I've been a first sergeant for more than three years, and have interacted in many situations where military members have faced serious disciplinary action. In every one of those situations I asked myself, "Where did we as leaders fail?"

I don't believe a supervisor is the responsible party each time someone receives disciplinary action. However, in every case before the trouble surfaced, there was an opportunity for the supervisor to intercede, influence and hopefully change that member's course.

When I say supervisor, I mean first-line supervisor; the one with the most direct influence on behavior. If this supervisor doesn't do his leadership job, the whole leadership team fails.

I cannot outline everything a leader should be responsible for, but there are three things that work for me, and I believe if applied, they could work for every first-line supervisor.

1. Get involved! Be a part of every aspect of a member's life. Keep on top of what is going on at the job and at home. Know what makes him tick and go that extra distance to get a job done. Know where he lives, as well as how and with whom. At work, know who he hangs around with. Find out what NCOs are looked up to and why. Am I asking you to be too involved, to intrude into someone's personal life? Well, it's your job. If you know your troop, he will take your direction and example more seriously, and you will be in a better position to interact when something is wrong.

2. Set an example! Visibly demonstrate your pride in being an Air Force member. Show everyday that you live by the same high standards you expect from others. If you only do the minimum amount of work required, don't be surprised if your troop only shows minimum performance. Remember, military service is voluntary. When someone joins, he is expected to be sharp, crisp, disciplined and committed to honor and duty. Always perform at that level. Remember how much you looked up to your Basic Military Instructor? Realize, as a supervisor, you are now in a position to be that example. It is an honor for someone to want to follow in your footsteps, so make sure you are worth the emulation.

3. Engage! Interact and keep your member on the right track. Update him on what he's doing right, doing wrong, as well as what is needed to improve as an airman. Explain what it takes to get promoted, win awards and decorations, and eventually be your replacement. Give praise for a job well done and correction for a mistake. Don't overlook what you consider to be a petty violation. Remember, documented counseling, admonishments and reprimands are all parts of your tool bag. Never walk away from a problem. Help fix it.

No matter what leadership actions are applied, sometimes people just don't adapt to the high standards expected of Air Force professionals. But, if we apply the above steps we can proudly say we gave 100% in our supervisory role and accepted the challenge that "leadership is our job!"

(Information courtesy of Master Sgt. Joseph Whetstine, 20th Mission Support Squadron 1st Sergeant.)

Free concert

The Sumter Chamber Orchestra is set to perform a free spring concert Sunday, from 3 - 5 p.m., at the Sumter Opera House.

St. Patrick's Day is the theme for the event. Music by indigenous Irish composers such as Mr. Victor Herbert, Mr. Charles V. Stanford, and Mr. Hamilton Harty will be performed.

Conductor, Mr. Logan Young, has assembled a chorus, brass quintet and guitarist that are also scheduled to play.

According to the SCO, this concert promises to be its most musically rewarding event to date.

For more information, call the Sumter Opera House at 436-2616.

