



**THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC**



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To the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

Your health and safety is our priority, and requires all of us to do our part to take care of each other. Thanksgiving weekend is the unofficial start of the holiday season which brings additional risk caused by inclement weather, decreased daylight hours and some of the heaviest travel days of the year. All of these factors increase the risk of accidental injuries, which in turn affects our readiness as a fighting force.

Over the past decade, preventable accidents on and off-duty have tragically claimed the lives of 35 Airmen during the holidays. Additionally, last winter, Airmen suffered 251 accidents that took them out of work at least one day, with a cost to readiness of nearly 11 work-years.

One tool that Air Force Safety recommends to minimize potential risks is Check 3 GPS. In this case, GPS stands for Gear, Plan and Skills. Check 3 is a quick and easy method to assess any off-duty activity or event for possible hazards and allow mitigation when required. Learn more at check3gps.com.

The holiday season provides abundant opportunities to celebrate with our family and friends. We urge you to take advantage of the long weekends and holiday periods, enjoy your hard-earned leave, and do it safely with a focus on returning to duty healthy and recharged. We wish you the happiest of Holiday Seasons and continued success in the New Year.


Barbara Barrett
Secretary of the Air Force


David L. Goldfein
General, USAF
Chief of Staff


Kaleth O. Wright
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force