

## **Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council (SOHAC) FY14 Semi-Annual Meeting**

On 22 April 2014, at 0800, the SOHAC Semi-Annual Meeting was held in the Command Conference Room, Bldg 100. Mr. Randy Grunow, Installation Safety Director, opened the meeting by welcoming all the members of the SOHAC.

### **Introduction**

- Opening remarks from MG Bingham, Commanding General, White Sands Missile Range-The CG asked the audience how did they like this year's Safety Stand Down Day. LTC Koeppen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion Commander stated that his unit had their own motorcycle safety training and Gary Giebel stated that there was scheduling conflict between organizational safety training and Safety Day training.
- Mr. Grunow commented on the surveys for the Safety Day. Two hundred surveys were handed out with 100 being returned. He stated that 99% of the feedback was positive. Next year he wants to expand the training to other areas and have supervisors encourage maximum participation.
- MG Bingham recognized the excellent Safety training classes at the PDC during this year's Safety Day and extended thanks to Monica Bogle for her hard work.
- MG Bingham reminded everyone to keep small children supervised and safe this summer. Rattlesnakes are a big safety concern during this time of year.
- MG Bingham stated that Bold Quest-NIE 14.2 is well under way. With this, there will be an increase of traffic especially tactical vehicles/convoys crossing HWY 70. Traffic will be halted periodically to allow this crossing therefore drivers should drive slower and more cautious.
- Mr. Grunow mentioned that employees have come to the Safety Office to report hazards in their work environment. He encourages Leaders and Safety Coordinators to periodically walk thru these work sites to look for possible safety issues. He suggests doing this each time with fresh eyes.
- Recognition was given to Mr. Mark Horst, SVAD, for voicing his safety concerns during environmental testing conducted on an aging warhead. His safety insight deterred an almost certain catastrophe.

### **Mr. Mike Hart, Garrison Safety Office**

- Safety Coordinator Appointment Letters
  - Per AR 385-10 All Safety Coordinators must have appointment orders
  - Some organizations have not responded to the appointment letter update requests. Mr. Grunow will send out another reminder.
  - Mr. Grunow mentioned that the Safety staffing is limited therefore Safety Coordinators are essential in helping with the Installations Safety Mission.
- Accidents and Incidents / Recordable Accidents for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Mr. Hart stated:
  - Command remains at 0
  - Contractors increased from 0 to 1
  - Garrison decreased from 3 to 0
  - WSTC decreased from 3 to 2
  - Takeaway-accidents have decreased by 63%
- Reportable Accidents-Class E Ground accident is a new category with the value of \$5000 dollars in damage or more but less than \$20,000. Reference AR 385-10

## Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council (SOHAC) FY14 Semi-Annual Meeting

- Total Accidents for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter
  - Command decreased from 3 to 1
  - Contractors increased from 16 to 26
  - Garrison decreased from 30 to 12
  - Public increase from 1 to 3
  - Tenants decreased from 24 to 12
  - WSTC decreased from 22 to 9
  - Visitors decreased from 6 to 2
  - Takeaway-MG Bingham would like to have the contractor accidents broken down by company to determine who is having the most accidents and why.
- Accidents by Type for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter
  - AMV decreased from 17 to 16
    - AMV/Object-Majority of accidents occurs in parking lots.
  - Drivers need to be aware of their surroundings.
  - COV decreased from 6 to 1
  - Ergonomics decreased from 7 to 1
  - POV decreased from 14 to 11
  - Slips Trips Falls (STF) decreased from 18 to 8
  - Takeaway-Accidents have decreased by 64%
- Accidents By Age/Gender/Day/Time of Day 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr FY 14
  - According to the data presented majority of accident occur on Mondays by males in the 50-59 age group between (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr) 1000-1200 and (2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr) 1200-1400 hours
  - Takeaway- Will compare WSMR demographics to accidents
- Total Accident CY11-CY13 Breakdown by Month
  - CY 11-June with 36 accidents
  - CY 12-April with 24 accidents
  - CY 13-April with 30 accidents
  - Takeaway-Workloads usually increase in April. Safety vigilance is key
- Prevention Strategies
  - AMV-
    - Train newcomers on Oryx
    - Supervisors counsel employees
  - STF-
    - Housekeeping measures implemented
    - Examine contributing factors i.e., footwear, uneven surfaces
    - Initiate prompt work orders to reduce/eliminate hazard
  - Job Hazard Analysis-
    - JHAs are being captured by the IH surveys
    - All employees must have a JHA
    - JHAs must be reviewed and updated annually
- Safety Training Updates 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr FY14
  - Safety training is available on the WSMR website  
<http://www.wsmr.army.mil/gar/ISO/Safety/Pages/SafetyEducationTraining.aspx>
  - UXO training will increase during the summer months

## **Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council (SOHAC) FY14 Semi-Annual Meeting**

- Ms. Monte Rout will periodically submit UXO articles in the WSMR Newspaper (Missile Ranger)

### **Traffic Update (Chief Wayne Cates, DES)**

- Traffic Statistics Crash Information
  - Chief Cates stated that the '49' collisions indicated on the slide should actually be read as '45' Collisions for FY-14, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr.
  - Chief Cates stated that the highest number of collisions involved Government vehicles, 17 were vehicles to object collisions, such as vehicles striking low to the ground objects that are not easily seen with smaller rear view mirrors and in narrow parking lots. Strikes include poles, fire hydrants, jersey barriers, and gates, and occurred in parking lots, work sites, and gate entry points.
  - Chief Cates indicated that there was also an increase in POV (8) related collisions.
- Traffic Crashes Break Down
  - Chief Cates indicated that most collisions occurred during the morning hours, followed by noon, on Wednesdays, with individuals 30-39 years of age, and involving pickup trucks.
  - Chief Cates stated that there was an increase in contractor related accidents, usually associated with NIE contractors arriving early morning and occurring uprange and stated that these areas are targets for law enforcement control strategies.
  - Mr Tyree (MT) stated that some contractors work at WSMR daily and part of our routine and considered part of our WSMR team while other contractors have contract relationships that do not allow for direct control over their activities.
  - MG Bingham stated that Installation Safety Office needs to target NIE contractor activities to emphasize safety and instructed leaders to communicate with their contractors to implement a hands-on approach and make safety a daily part of their regimen.
  - The question was asked if DES checks insurance at the post gates. Chief Cates stated that insurance is checked during traffic stops, accidents, and during a compliance check.
- Traffic Violations Reported to Directorates-FY14
  - Chief Cates stated that due to NIE more 1408s were issued.
  - Chief Cates stated that there was an increase in DWI citations including two civilian's cited. One individual was found passed out with the vehicle's engine running.
  - Chief Cates discussed 2 of 3 accidents with injuries:
    - An accident occurred on Owens Road, when a driver reached to retrieve a fallen pizza box and swerved over 2 lanes of traffic, narrowly missing a van and landing in soft shoulder into an arroyo.
    - An accident occurred up on northern part of range involving a security guard, late for a mission, that ran into a gravel pit resulting in a Near Miss. Inattentive driving and speed were factors.
  - Chief Cates indicated that there was a decrease in attentive driving-cell phone usage citations.

## **Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council (SOHAC) FY14 Semi-Annual Meeting**

- Chief Cates indicated that most speeding occurred uprange at speeds of 85-90 mph, and a significant portion of the speeders were contractors, some involved with road construction.
- Chief Cates indicated our primary focus must continue to emphasize exercising caution in parking lots and backing up to avoid striking poles and other objects
- MG Bingham stated that leaders need to continue to talk to their organizations and stress the importance of safety.
- Chief Cates stated that DES officers counted a total of 308 verbal warnings for speeding with no citation issued and he will be instructing the officers to issue more citations and less verbal warnings.
- Take away: WSMR needs to continue focusing on inattentive driving, cell phone usage, fatigue, and speeding.
- Pro Active Law Enforcement
  - Chief Cates state that there is more traffic on WSMR, primarily on War Road and Nike related to NIE operation.
  - Chief Cates is on the process of certifying additional radar operators. This will result in more radar units issuing citations.
  - Chief Cates stated that the recently hired traffic officer is on board.
  - The question was asked if accident statistics include accidents that occurred outside of WSMR. Chief Cates stated that statistics only includes WSMR property, which includes Owens Road.
  - Chief Cates indicated if a vehicle loses control on Owens Road, the vehicle would probably roll over due to the loose sand.
  - Frank Chavez asked if more insurance compliance checks will take place. Chief Cates indicated that more compliance checks would take place, and not only for insurance checks but for contraband and unregistered weapon checks.
  - Mr Giebel suggested that signs are needed along I-70, requiring drivers in slow moving vehicles to use flashers. Mr Grunow stated that he would work with a POC at New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) office to obtain the traffic signs.
  - The question was asked if officers check for government issued drivers licenses. Chief Gates stated that until the issuing process is resolved at the licensing office he cannot enforce the requirement.

### **Industrial Hygiene (Mr. Ray Gruben)**

- IH identified (between the last SOHAC and now) a worksite where Isocyanates (packing material) was made and used. Sampling was performed and the results were within the OSHA allowable Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL).
- Small Arms Testing- IH started sampling Small Arms Testing to find lead exposure; the results were above the PEL and now IH must perform quarterly sampling. Also IH is working with the Small Arms group to keep the levels down. During ambient firing in February they were below OSHA action limit and PEL.
- The question was asked of what is the most worrisome issue see by the IH section here on WSMR. Mr. Gruben stated that ergonomics is the biggest issue because of WSMRs aging

## **Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council (SOHAC) FY14 Semi-Annual Meeting**

workforce.

- Mr. Gruben stated that there is a lot of potential exposure to asbestos and that his group has met with DPW and Garrison Commander to try to reinstitute the Installation Asbestos Management program.
- Mr. Tyree stated that an outside tiled platform containing asbestos was identified in his area. The asbestos was removed and the area is now a concreted conex pad. Mr. Gruben stated that anytime asbestos is handled caution must be taken to prevent potential exposure.
- Mr. Gruben stated that the Ergonomic sub-committee to the SOHAC has met twice. He also added that committee members are active in evaluating office ergonomics in their areas. He mentioned that everybody in the subcommittee has received on-the-job training on how to do simple office ergonomics and results are being gathered to see if there are any trends in equipment and services needed.
- Mr. Gruben stated that IH is also working on the area of hearing conservation, trying to actively review all personnel who are currently enrolled in the Hearing Conservation Program. He mentioned that it is an ongoing effort.

### **Occupational Health (Melissa M. Amaro, PA-C)**

- Ms. Amaro stated that the JHA compliance is at 89%. OH is now looking at IH surveys to identify PEL at various worksites. Also, the IH surveys are reviewed to identify workers exposure to high levels of lead. If a test result comes back with high lead levels, that person will be entered into the lead surveillance program. Also, a person working in an environment where noise levels exceed a certain decibel will be enrolled in the Hearing Conservation Program.
- Ms. Amaro stated that about 80% of the slips, trips and falls are female. She also mentioned that in 2010 she started a no high heel campaign for females.
- Ms. Amaro mentioned that their staff has really changed in the last 5 months; from a staff of 8 since September down to 3 staff members.
- WSMR overall compliance decreased 2% which is very good considering the shortness of staff.
- NAVY's-Medical Surveillance Compliance at 85%. The decline is due to the hiring of new personnel.
- LRC-Medical Surveillance Compliance at 72%. LRC relies heavily on McAfee to send out employee reminders.
- Garrison-Medical Surveillance Compliant at 98%.
- Ms. Amaro mentioned that OH saved MWR \$10,000 in payroll because they were taking care of CYS workers in one stop shot and they get it all done within 2 hours.
- Ms. Amaro stated that DES Overall is at 97%, Fire Department is at 100% and Police and Guards are at 96% because some of those individual are on restrictive limitations. She also mentioned that the dispatchers are at 88%; they have issues with not reporting, there is not a strong rule in their regulation like with guards, OH sees them every 2 or 3 years, they need to be seen every year.
- Ms. Amaro mentioned that OH needs to work more with Safety to obtain numbers, like slips, trips and falls, because every year they see the same incidents.

## **Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council (SOHAC) FY14 Semi-Annual Meeting**

- Termination/retirement/departures/separation personnel are entitled to an exit physical. This is to capture the overall health of the worker and legally protect WSMR in the future.
- Ms. Amaro stated that every US worker must have safe and healthful conditions, OSHA standards are the law.
- Ms. Amaro stated that it is crucial to have up-to-date worker health programs, as the jobs are rapidly changing, and are using new equipment.
- OH is not a primary health care facility. For some reason, people are showing up there wanting to be seen for their allergies.

### **Workers' Compensation, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr, Ms. Cindi Romero, ICPA Coordinator**

- Breakout by Command, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr, FY13vs. FY14
  - Ms Romero stated things have been quiet, which is good news for WSMR. Numbers indicate a reduction from 30 in FY 13 to 14 in FY14 for the same time period.
  - Ms Romero stated 8 claims were submitted for the record, of which 6 generated claims vs. 25 submitted last year.
  - Ms Romero stated 4 cases have been challenged, 3 claims were denied by Dept of Labor and the 3 claimants have not filed an appeal and 1 claim is still under development.
  - Ms Romero stated that the Dept of Labor has a formula that uses a person's age and rate of pay to calculate estimated cost savings from the Dept of Labor denials. The result is \$3.8 million dollars in potential savings to WSMR.
- Worker's Compensation, Nature of Injury/Occupational Disease 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr
  - Ms Romero stated that for FY14, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr the most common type of injury resulted in minor contusion, bruises, or abrasions.
- Worker's Compensation, Continuation of Pay (COP) 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr
  - Ms Romero stated that COP covers the first 45 days of an injury and accounts for nearly 100% decrease vs. last year (\$25,742.80, this year \$271.31.)
  - Ms Romero stated when fewer accidents occur; fewer injuries are reported and the rest falls into place.
  - A question was asked if ergonomic costs associated with back sprains had been evaluated. Ms Romero stated that because the true root cause of the injury is subjective an ongoing discussion with the Installation Safety Office is occurring.
- Worker's Compensation, Leave Without Pay (LWOP) 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr
  - Ms Romero stated that there are 2 employees on LWOP, equaling 148 lost workdays, however lost work days vs. FY13, (269 days) was a decrease of 62%.
  - Ms Romero stated LWOP is a cost to productivity. The organization is charged through appropriations and agency allowances are skimmed back. The organization is paying for someone that is not working, that is why the return to work initiative is so important.
  - Ms. Romero stated that when COP and LWOP costs are added the result is a 54% decrease vs. FY13. .
- Chargeback Update, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter CBY 14
  - Ms Romero stated that Compensation and Medical Costs are down 16% vs. FY13 representing 96 claims vs. 119 last year.

## Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council (SOHAC) FY14 Semi-Annual Meeting

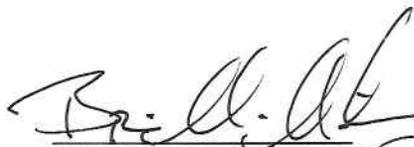
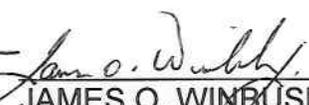
- Ms Romero stated that the worker's compensation costs are Chargeback to WSMR. The money is taken out from the commands budgets.
- Ms Romero stated non-back strains were the most costly type of injury this year.

### Taskers/Action Items:

- Safety-Prepare a breakdown of accidents by Contractor/Company and define root causes.
  - Contractor accident data was provided to the CG on 22 Apr 14.
- Safety-Compare WSMR demographic to accident statistics
- There was a safety concern brought to the attention of the Installation Safety Director during the SOHAC that involves a section of Highway 70 traveling the onramp at Owens Road, White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) towards Organ/Las Cruces. Hundreds of employees and family members living/working on the installation travel this section of road going from WSMR towards Las Cruces on a daily basis. Below is the safety concern and a recommendation to mitigate the hazard.
  - When driving west from White Sands Missile Range onto Hwy 70 at the Owen Road (State Road 213) on-ramp (heading towards Organ and Las Cruces) and until Hwy 70 goes to 3 lanes, are experiencing a number of near miss accidents due to slow moving trucks and large RV's in the right lane. It is difficult to judge the speeds of the slow moving trucks and large RV's until the merging traffic is right behind them. Some years back, a WSMR employee drove up under a semi-trailer and was killed in this same stretch of HWY 70.
  - Recommendation: Install a warning sign prior to Owens Road at the point where the uphill grade begins coming from Alamogordo, advising commercial vehicle operators and other large vehicles to use their 4-way flashers when traveling the steep grade to alert other motorists of the speed differential between their vehicle and the other vehicles.
  - NM DOT was contacted on 25 Apr 14, reference the safety issue and the District Engineer is working the issue.

### Closing

- Next SOHAC will be October 2014.
- Meeting adjourned at 0950 hours.

 _____ BRIAN M. MICHELSON COL, CA Commanding	 _____ JAMES O. WINBUSH, JR. COL, LG Commanding
<u>2 MA-14</u> DATE	<u>5 May 14</u> DATE

 _____ GWEN BINGHAM MAJOR GENERAL, USA Commanding
<u>13 May 14</u> DATE