

Seatbelts save lives

Everyday is a fight on our highways, a fight to protect those sharing the nation's roadways from crashes and the resulting tragedies.

Fortunately, you may have heard the good news that fatalities from traffic crashes have steadily decreased. This isn't just good news, it is great news.

However, we still can't overlook the fact that nationwide 22,187 passenger vehicle occupants were killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2010, and 51 percent were not wearing seat belts at the time of their fatal crashes. These losses have a big impact on the military community, as motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for all military personnel. Tragedies from traffic crashes leave families in shock and pain and oftentimes in financial need. They also leave our installation and nation without valued service members.

But there's a very easy way to help prevent motor vehicle fatalities, wear your seat belt. To remind Fort Sill



Did you know?

By Col. Paul Hossenlopp
Fort Sill Garrison commander

drivers, the *Click It or Ticket* enforcement mobilization occurred May 21 through June 3. Fort Sill law enforcement personnel were out in full force to encourage motorists to buckle up.

The good news is Fort Sill motorists appear to understand the value of wearing their seatbelts. Law enforcement personnel only cited two drivers for failure to wear their seatbelts.

Fort Sill's campaign coincided with local and national efforts as police mobilized to enforce state seat belt laws. Motorists who drove without their seat belt buckled faced a ticket and a fine.

Aside from saving money, each time you buckle up, you make a difference in your own personal safety. On

average, seat belts save more than 12,000 lives nationwide every year. Whether you're a driver or passenger, on post or off duty, driving during the day or night, wearing a seat belt is the *easiest* way to protect yourself from death or injury in a crash.

Remember, wearing a seat belt is required on post. Make it a requirement for your personal vehicle, too, when the risk of a fatal crash is higher — especially for pickup truck and night drivers and passengers.

You may have the money to pay the fine, but in the event of a crash, you can't afford to pay with your life. Rest assured, if that thought doesn't inspire you to buckle up, Fort Sill law enforcement will be on the lookout to motivate.

Neel

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history began when he got a degree in cultural anthropology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He went on to get a master's of arts and doctorate in Anglo-Saxon studies at the University of Nottingham in England. While cataloguing items in the Anglo-Saxon Museum, he learned the importance of proper acquisition and compiling data on historic artifacts in a museum setting.

"I have a passion for history from cultural anthropology, just an interest in studying people, cultures, society, those type of things. It kind of came together into the career that I have now," he said. "At the Alaska Native Heritage Center, dealing with the cultural objects and some of the artwork, especially the contemporary work, just really brought it into perspective that these items are important to these native cultures, and certainly to the public. The same is true for Fort Sill. Some people who come here are more interested in artillery, so they'll go down to the artillery museum. But other people are also going to be interested in Fort Sill history, and they want to know more about Western frontier life, Indians and the cavalry, so they are going to come here," Neel added.

Neel has only been at Fort Sill for a month, but he has already begun to assess the status of Fort Sill's most prized landmark. He is working with Siltman to build on the heritage of the museum. "I'd like to redo some of the exhibits because some of the text is hard to read, especially for our retirees who visit," he said. We want to have more colorful display panels. My background is primarily collections, and I developed a lot of displays at the



Dr. Scott Neel, is the new director and curator of the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum.

Smithsonian and the Native Heritage Center. We want the displays here to have eye-popping appeal."

While at the Heritage Center, Neel oversaw the development of an interactive museum tour using iPods. Visitors could download a free program to an iPod Touch, an iPhone or Android phone. The program used photographs, videos, cultural music and narratives in native Alaskan voices to create a complete learning experience. Neel believes the same type of program can eventually be developed at Fort Sill.

"I want to make something that is more interactive and interesting for everyone from kids to adults but who are kids at heart. That's how excited history makes me feel, like a kid," he said.

Money and personnel are always in short supply in a museum setting, so Neel wants to rebuild the volunteer force at the museum.

"Volunteers are the backbone of museums. They can do the stuff that the staff just

doesn't have the time to do," he said. "I want to have more re-enactors out in the cavalry barracks or at the guard house. We need more volunteer tour guides so our collections manager isn't taken away from doing collections-related stuff. We also would like volunteer help designing and building new exhibit displays. I hope to get the word out that we need more volunteers."

"Fort Sill is a national historical landmark, the oldest, most complete frontier fort from that time period. To be put in charge of this is monumental for me. I want to make sure we preserve the history and the cultural objects. That's a given," he said.

"But, I want us to tell the story in a meaningful way, so that visitors will go away from here with a better understanding of what Fort Sill is, where it came from and how there is still historical continuity even today. It reflects who we are as a country and where we came from. How can you not preserve that?" Neel said.

Grads

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from his vocational rehabilitation coordinator, who helped him stay on track with his education. That experience led him to pursue a career in counseling. "I have come to realize that the people who will really help veterans are people who have been in the military, people who had dependents in the military, or people

with close ties with the military," Johnson said. "The average person out there appreciates Soldiers and does what they can, but that is about as far as it goes. So I decided that I wanted to go into counseling."

Johnson has been accepted at the University of Tennessee in their graduate program and will study vocational rehabilitation counseling so he can become a licensed professional counselor.

"I would like to get a job with Veterans Affairs and take some of the lessons I learned from my Army experiences and make things better. That's my ultimate goal. I've spent a long time thinking about this and I decided that I can channel the feelings I have and make a difference," he said.

"Even if it's only helping a few Soldiers, I will feel I have made a difference," said Johnson.

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