

NSA Norfolk kicks off Pedestrian/Driver Safety Campaign

By Katisha Draughn, Naval Support Activity Norfolk Public Affairs Office

Summer is right around the corner and more people will be outside enjoying the nice, warm weather. With the upcoming influx of human and vehicle traffic, it is imperative for pedestrians and drivers to be aware of their surroundings and be mindful of safety measures. Naval Support Activity (NSA) Norfolk has recognized the importance of this and has decided to do something about it by kicking off its Pedestrian/Driver Safety Campaign recently.

The campaign will bring awareness to the rights and responsibilities of both pedestrians and drivers onboard NSA Norfolk.

The message is simple – pedestrians and drivers must work together to ensure that everyone arrives at their destination safely. Pedestrians must use crosswalks, make eye contact with drivers and check both ways before they cross the street. Drivers must obey the speed limits and watch out for and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks.

“This is a compact base with well over 6,000 vehicles daily,” said Capt. Charles P. Melcher, Commanding Officer, NSA Norfolk. “Our main gate handles more traffic than any naval station gate and the population density onboard NSA Norfolk is the highest of any base in the region.”

According to the Sewells Point Safety Office, between fiscal 2006 and April 2011, there were 21 fatalities and 2,792 lost work days in Navy and Marine pedestrian mishaps and more than 90 percent of the pedestrian fatalities were in single-vehicle fatalities.

With this Pedestrian/Driver Safety Campaign, NSA Norfolk will do their part by educating both pedestrians and drivers about what to look for, what to expect and how to prevent pedestrian injuries and fatalities from occurring. Base police are participating in the campaign and will issue warning tickets and scrape stickers of drivers who fail to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks. They will also issue warning tickets for pedestrians who fail to use crosswalks or endanger traffic by launching into crosswalks without proper care.

“Our confined parking, narrow roadways and blind corners require us to take special measures to ensure the safety of those who work onboard NSA Norfolk,” said Melcher. “We are committed to keeping our roadways safe for all.”

Additionally, NSA Norfolk has a project that is going to re-signal and upgrade crosswalks on-base with new paint, new signage where appropriate and an engineering study to ensure that crosswalks are properly located. This project will take place over the Summer and is scheduled to be complete in the Fall.

“Please help us help you,” said Melcher.