

Supervisor safety training reduces workplace hazards

By Scotty Johns, Chief of Safety

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas – The primary law covering worker safety is the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The OSH Act aims to reduce workplace hazards and implement safety and health programs for both employers and their employees.

Under the law, each federal agency must provide occupational safety and health training for supervisory employees that include:

- supervisory responsibility for providing and maintaining safe and healthful working conditions for employees;
- the agency occupational safety and health program;
- section 19 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970;
- Executive Order 12196, Occupational safety and health programs for federal employees;
- occupational safety and health standards applicable to the assigned workplaces;
- agency procedures for reporting hazards;
- agency procedures for reporting and investigating allegations of reprisal;
- agency procedures for the abatement of hazards,
- other appropriate rules and regulations.

This supervisor safety training, or SST, includes introductory and specialized courses and materials that enable supervisors to recognize and eliminate, or reduce, occupational safety and health hazards in their working units. Such training shall also include the development of requisite skills in managing the agency's safety and health program within the work unit, including the training and motivation of subordinates toward assuring safe and healthful work practices.

Each Air Force installation provides SST, usually monthly. To sign-up, members can should their local installation Safety Office or unit safety representative. The training is only required once, but supervisors may re-attend.

All Department of Air Force and Nonappropriated Fund supervisors must complete the course and document completion on their Air Force Form 55. At JBSA, where the majority of our team is located, supervisors can sign up at <http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Safety/> or by calling the JBSA Safety Office at 210-671-5028.

For more information, call the AFIMSC Safety Office at 210-395-1666.