



Personal Firearm Safety in the Home

Training Program

Instructor's Manual



An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home



Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

Personal Firearm Safety Training Instructor's Manual

November 2014

Developed by the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress,
Uniformed Services University in collaboration with
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
and Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

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Collaborative effort with the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) and Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) for Suicide Prevention and Fostering Resilient Service members and Families

PROJECT TITLE:

Development of an Education Curriculum for Personally Owned Firearms Safety Enhancements Initiative

PROJECT ELEMENT:

IAA for Specialized Training and Collaborative Consulting between DSPO, YRRP and USU Department of Psychiatry/Center for Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS)

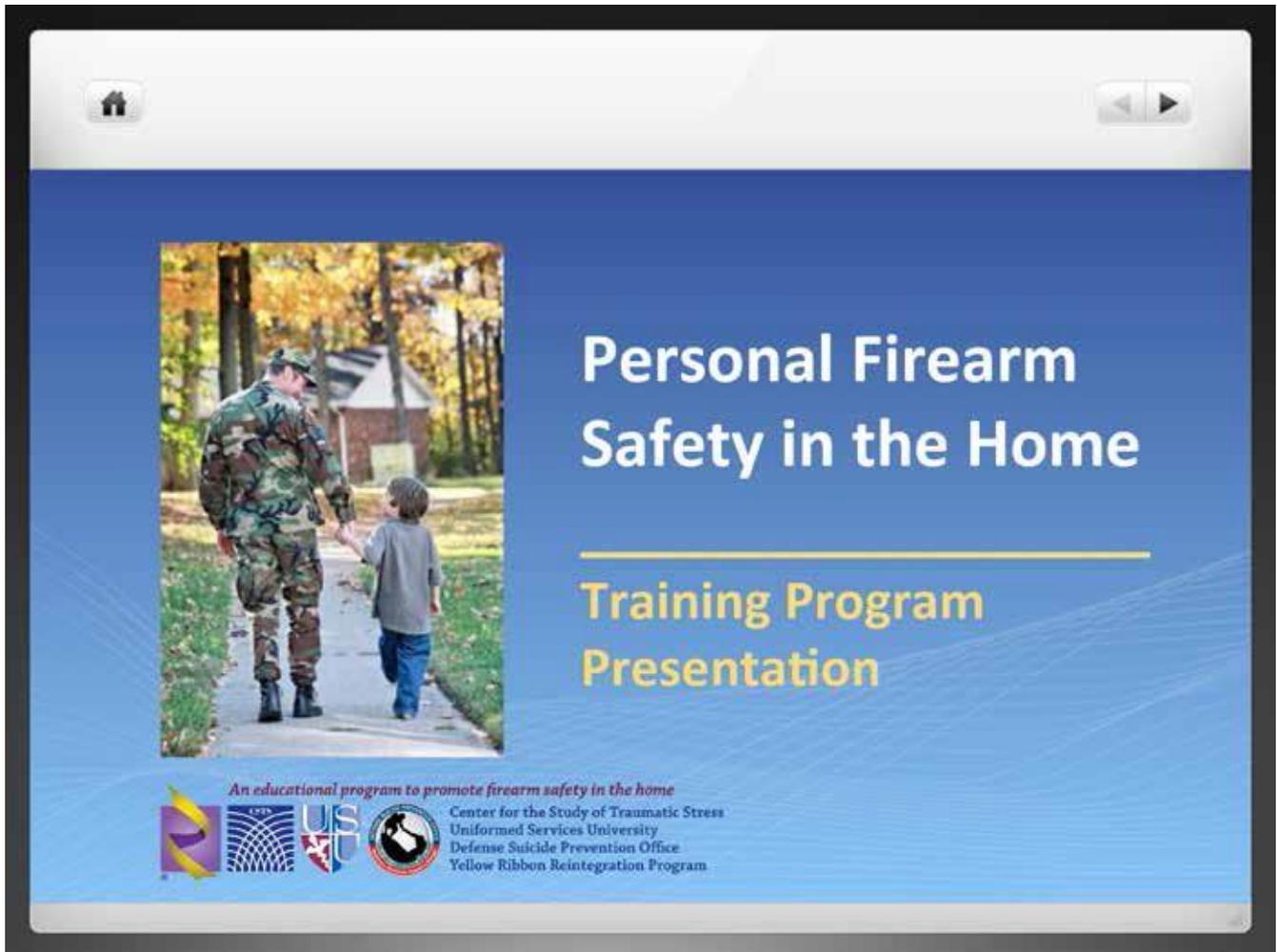
I. Background and Need

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a DoD-wide effort to promote the well-being of Reserve Component (RC) members, their families and communities, by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle. Through YRRP events, service members and loved ones connect with local resources before, during, and after deployments. Reintegration during post-deployment is a critical time for members of the RC, as they often live far from military installations and members of their units. Commanders and leaders play a critical role in assuring that service members and their families attend YRRP events where they can access information on health care, education/training opportunities, financial, and legal benefits.

II. Project Objectives

The Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS) of the Uniformed Services University will partner with the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) and the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) to develop a series of multimodal educational materials and pro-

cedure. This targeted effort strategically support DoD Suicide Prevention mission by implementing a personal firearm safety program that includes educational, transactional and assessment components. This targeted effort promotes informed use of gun locks in order to advance the prevention of suicide mission in National Guard Service members as well as “Be Safe, Be Well, Be Strong: The Reserve Component Family” for pre, during and post operational deployments. Defense Suicide Prevention Office in cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has developed a plan to distribute Project Child Safe® gun locks at YRRP events. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program has agreed to take the first steps in distributing the gun locks and solicits input from the CSTS/USU regarding how the CSTS can assist in the development of a training program/curriculum to accompany this distribution effort and enhance utilization and safety. Strategically support DoD Suicide Prevention mission by implementing a personal firearm safety program, which includes educational, transactional and assessment components.



SCRIPT:

Hello, my name is (First-Last Name) and I will be your facilitator today. I am an (role) and working with Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program to present a Personal Firearm Safety program designed to highlight the importance of gun safety in your homes and how every member of your household can participate in creating a safe environment.

One of the goals of today's presentation is to have an interactive dialogue, so to get started, by a show of hands:

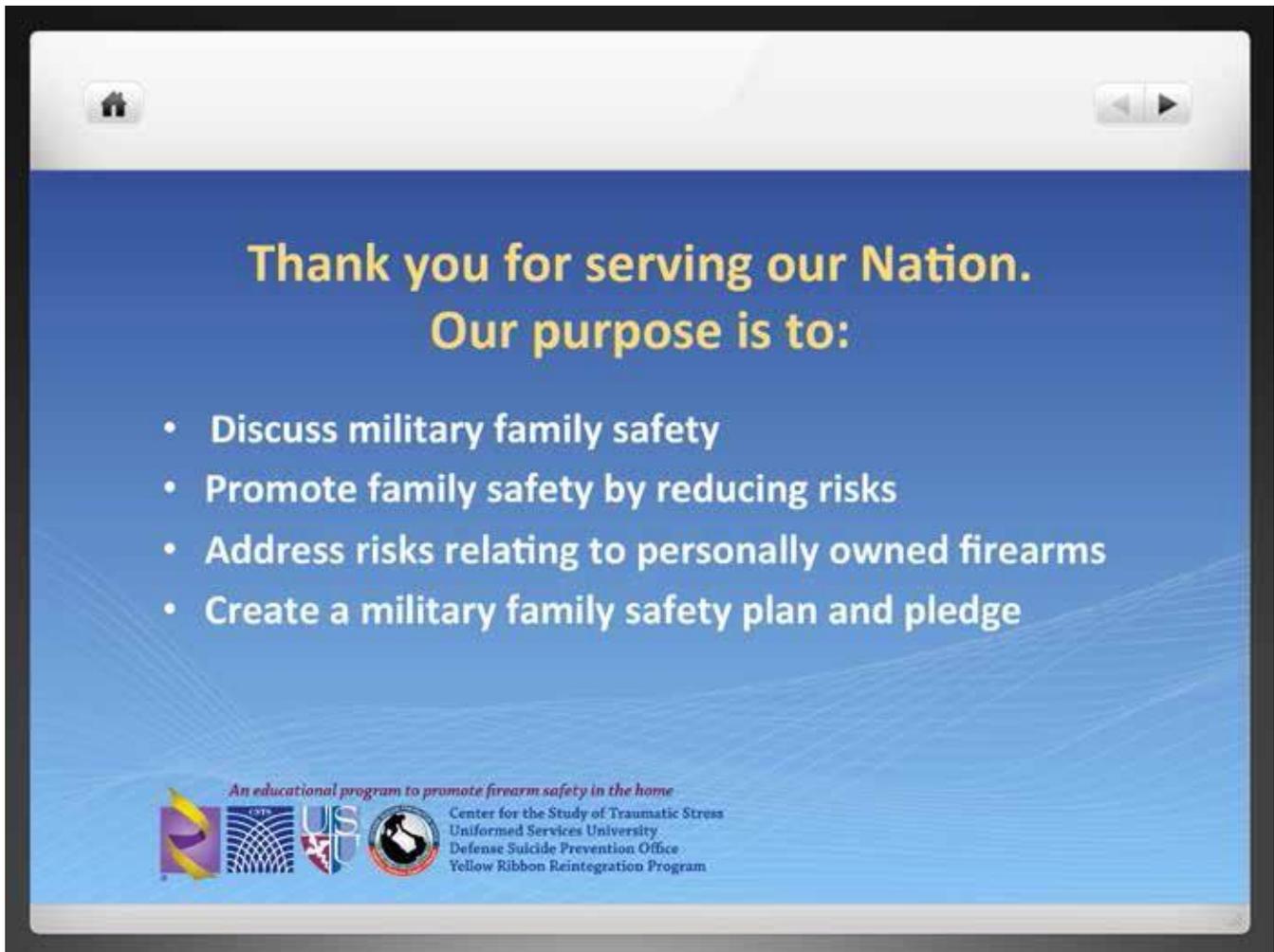
How many of you have children currently living in your home?

How many are between the ages of 1-9? 10-18?

Here are a few other questions for you to think about, no responses needed.

Do you have a personal firearm stored in your home?

Where is it stored and who knows about it?



SCRIPT:

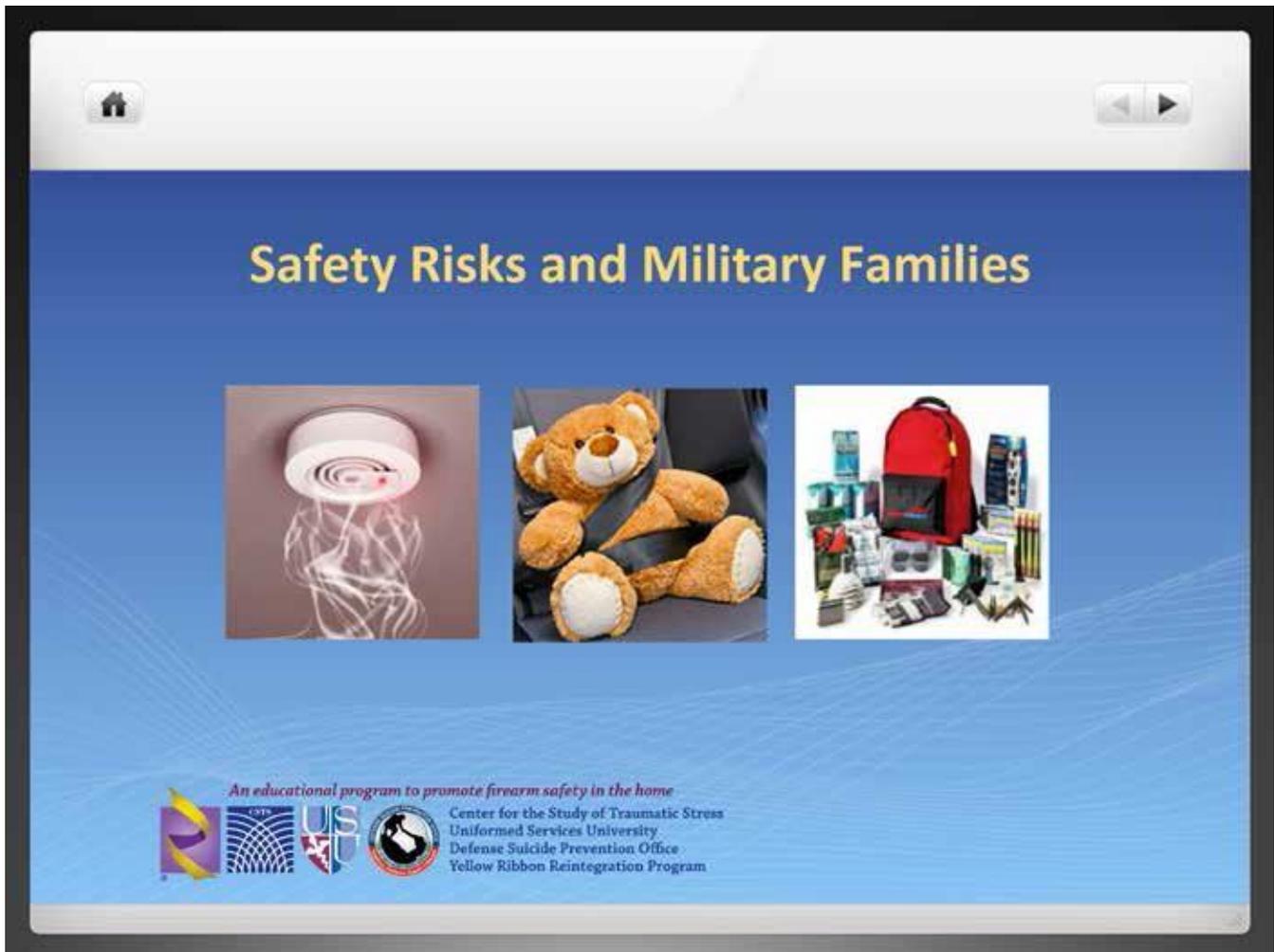
Thank you for participating in this discussion on gun safety, and especially for your service in our Armed Forces. Listed here are a number of statements of purpose for you to consider throughout this presentation.

Our purpose is to

- Raise awareness of family safety.
- Learn and discuss how to prevent accidents in the home.
- Learn and discuss how to minimize risk and promote family and gun safety. And to,
- Pledge responsibility for protecting your family's safety.

Audience Participation:

Before we get started, please take a few moments to fill the survey we have distributed.



SCRIPT:

Today we will discuss how we can improve safety plans using public health methods.

In particular, we would like to think about safety planning in relation to our family which might include those living with a spouse, a partner, a roommate, a friend, or those of us who live alone. We will talk about some common scenarios and how military stressors can impact the safety of service members and families.

We will talk specifically about firearm storage practices, in your home and the homes you frequent, that will protect you and your loved ones.

Finally, we will help you create your own unique, firearm safety plan for your home. The goal is for each of you and your family members to understand YOUR situation, assess YOUR risks and define YOUR plan.

But first let's consider some history that will help better understand the idea of public health and safety.

Public Health and Safety

FIGURE 1. Motor-vehicle-related deaths per million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and annual VMT, by year — United States, 1925–1997

The graph displays two data series from 1925 to 1995. The left y-axis represents 'Deaths Per Million VMT' (0 to 20), and the right y-axis represents 'VMT (Billions)' (0 to 3000). The x-axis represents 'Year' (1925 to 1995). The 'Deaths' line (blue) starts at approximately 18 in 1925 and declines to about 2 by 1995. The 'Vehicle Miles Traveled' line (green) starts near 0 in 1925 and rises to approximately 2500 billion by 1995.

Year	Deaths Per Million VMT	VMT (Billions)
1925	18	100
1935	16	200
1945	11	300
1955	6	500
1965	5	1000
1975	3	1500
1985	2.5	2000
1995	2	2500

How did we make this happen?

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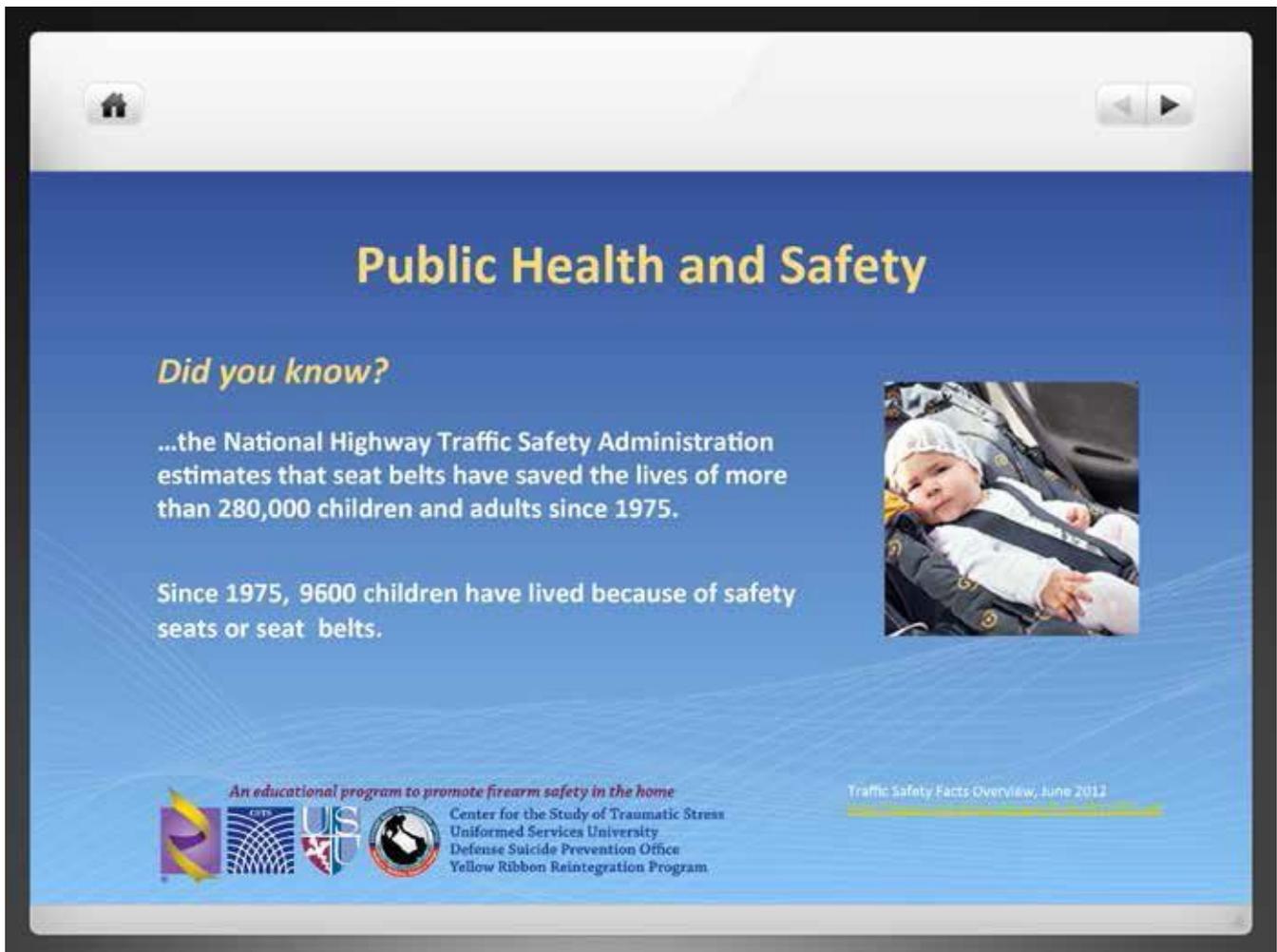
Source:

[https://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/ohrt-report-2010-2011.pdf](#)

SCRIPT:

This graph shows a decrease in the number of motor-vehicle-related deaths from 1925–1995. Even though the number of annual vehicle miles traveled increased, the rate of deaths on the highway went down.

What did manufacturers, drivers and society do to bring about such an amazing change?



The slide features a blue background with a white header bar containing a home icon and navigation arrows. The main title 'Public Health and Safety' is in yellow. Below it, the text 'Did you know?' is in yellow, followed by white text stating that seat belts have saved over 280,000 lives since 1975. A photo of a baby in a car seat is on the right. At the bottom, there are logos for various organizations and a reference to 'Traffic Safety Facts Overview, June 2012'.

Public Health and Safety

Did you know?

...the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that seat belts have saved the lives of more than 280,000 children and adults since 1975.

Since 1975, 9600 children have lived because of safety seats or seat belts.



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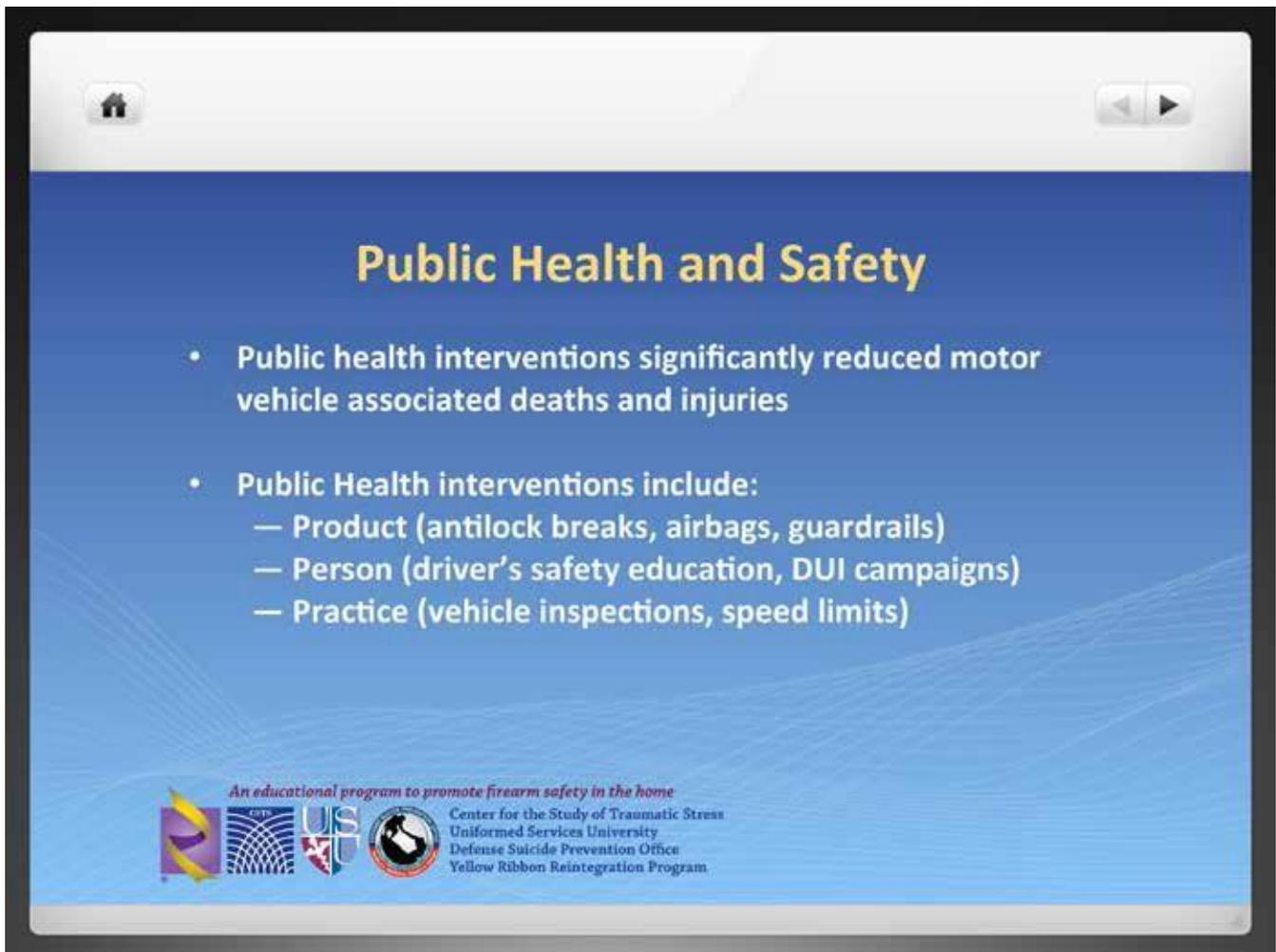
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Traffic Safety Facts Overview, June 2012

SCRIPT:

One specific public health intervention that saves lives is the seat belt. Here we see data on how the added practice of using seat belts helped save lives.

Are there other things you can think of that made it safer for us out on the road since 1925?



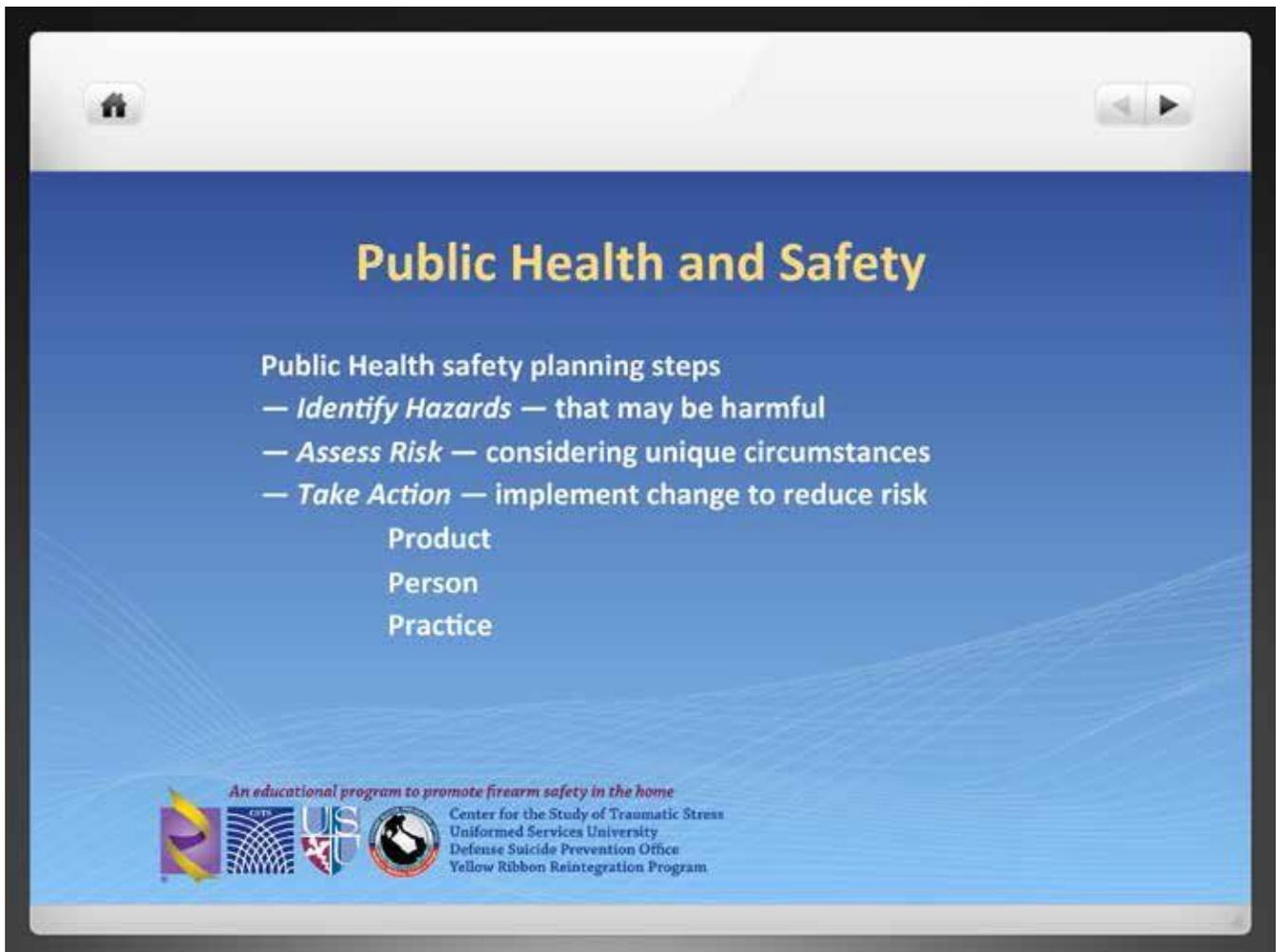
SCRIPT:

Exactly! All of the things you mentioned are some type of public health intervention.

Read bullet point number two (can be paraphrased).

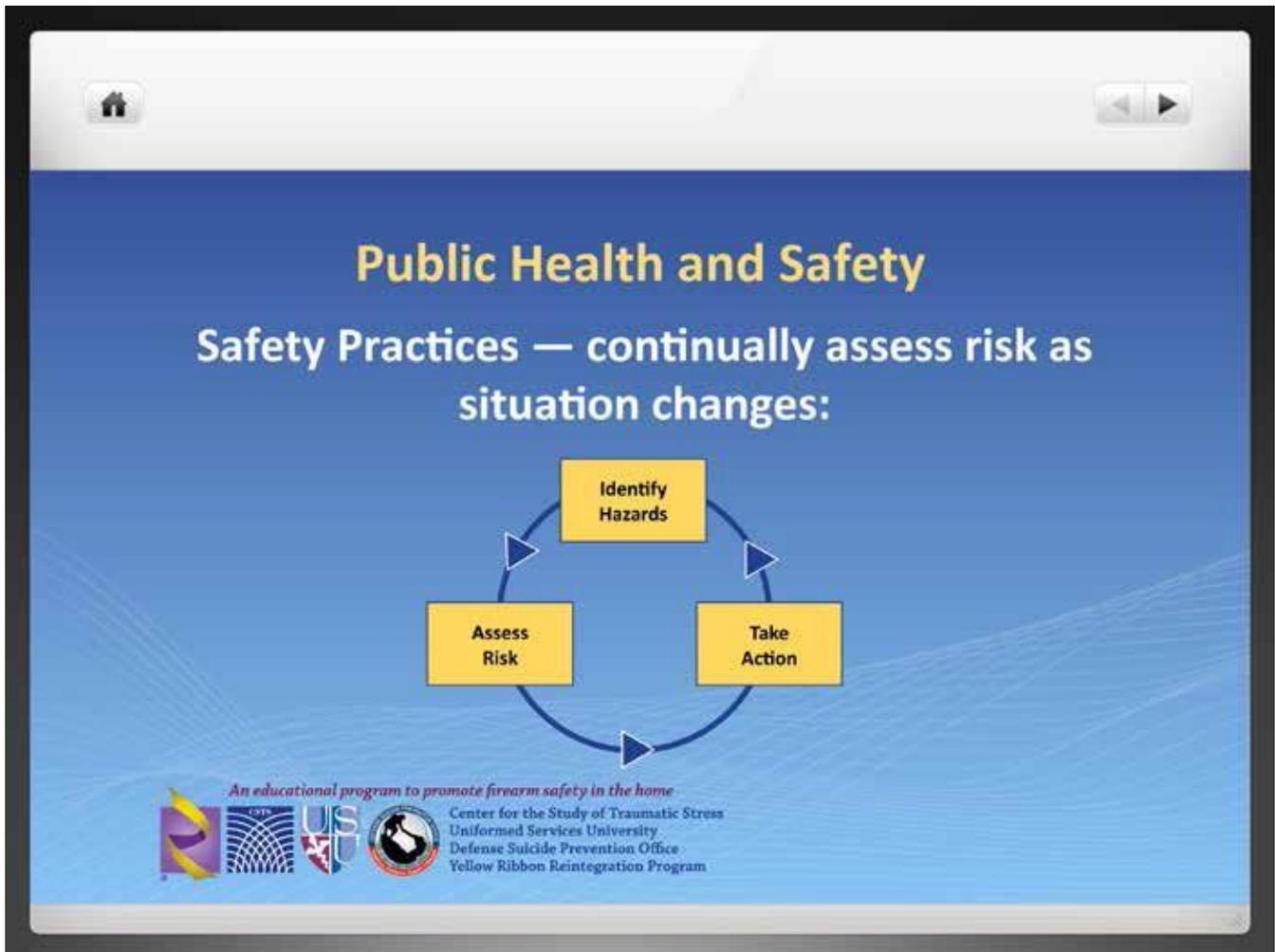
Notice that there are three types of interventions: product, person and practice. Any one of these makes a difference, but taken together they cut the rate of motor vehicle fatalities dramatically.

Each of these safety interventions came about through deliberate public health safety planning.



SCRIPT:

Public health safety planning involves deliberate steps in which we identify hazards that present a potential danger, assess the level of risk for each hazard, and based on that risk make changes to products, people, or practices to reduce those risks.



SCRIPT:

When we consider Public Health safety planning and how to create a safe environment, the basic structure is the same regardless of the situation.

We will use this model as our theme throughout our discussion.

Notice that this is a continuous loop.

Now let's consider ways that public health safety planning can make a difference in our own homes.

Safety Risks and Military Families

Identify Hazards

- Exposed electrical outlets
- New toddler in the house

Assess Risk

- How likely is it a curious child will get shocked?

Take Action

- Safety covers on exposed outlets

The diagram shows a circular flow of three yellow boxes: 'Identify Hazards' at the top, 'Assess Risk' on the left, and 'Take Action' on the right, connected by blue arrows in a clockwise cycle.

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SCRIPT:

Consider the family with a child beginning to walk. Suddenly there are new hazards inside the home to consider. Electrical outlets are just one potential hazard, *can you think of others?*

How great is the risk to the child from the hazard of exposed outlets?

Considering this risk, it probably makes sense to cover outlets that the child might reach.

Can you think of other actions that would help reduce the risk to the child from exposed electrical outlets?

Safety Risks and Military Families

Common Family Safety Practices

- Drugs and poisons out of reach of children
- Electrical outlets covered
- Neighborhood watch
- Meet children's friends
- Meet children's friend's parents in their home
- Safe driving
- Model safe alcohol use

Identify Hazards

Assess Risk

Take Action

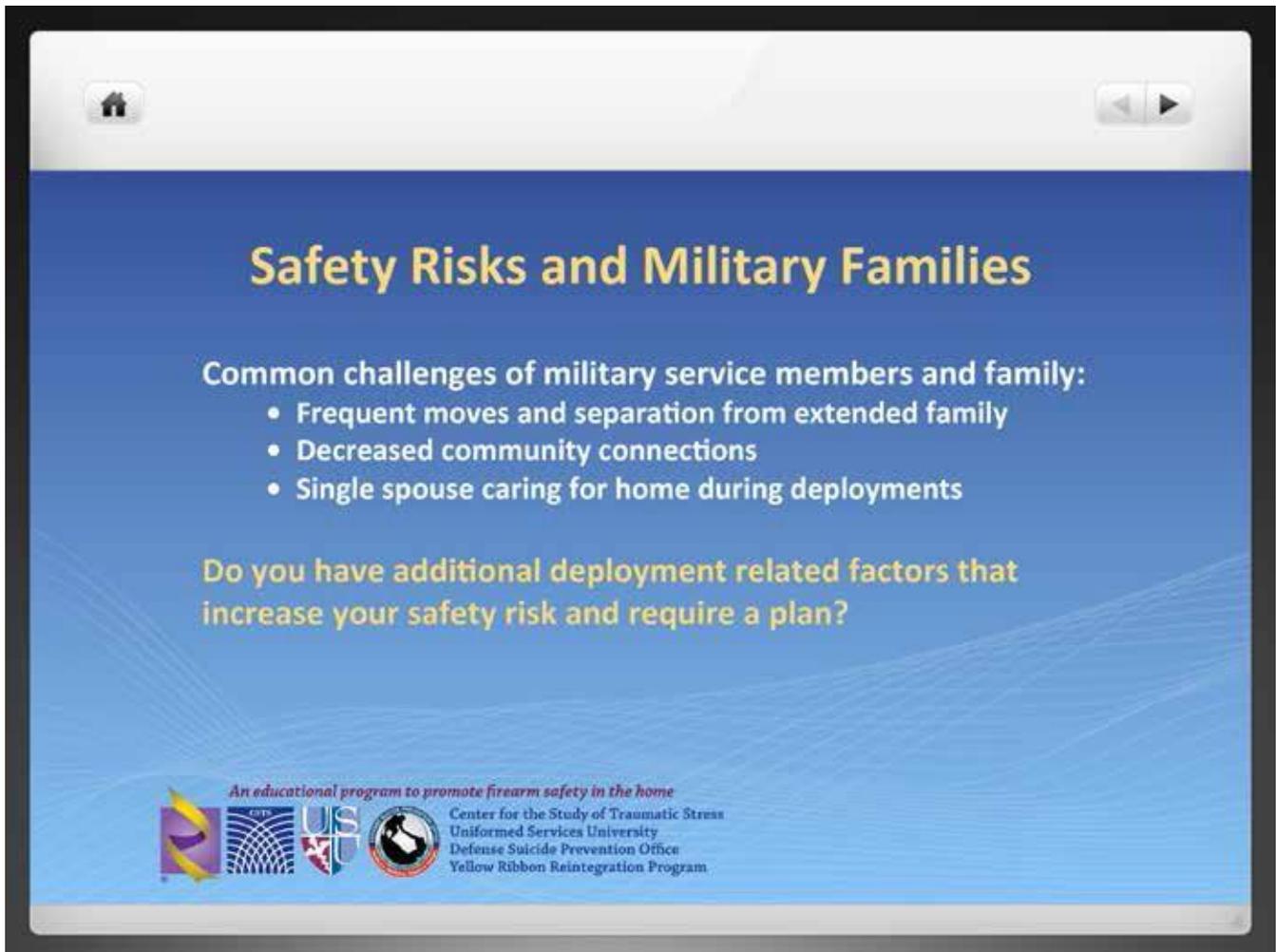
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SCRIPT:

Here are some common safety practices many families employ.

Are there other common safety practices you observe in your family?



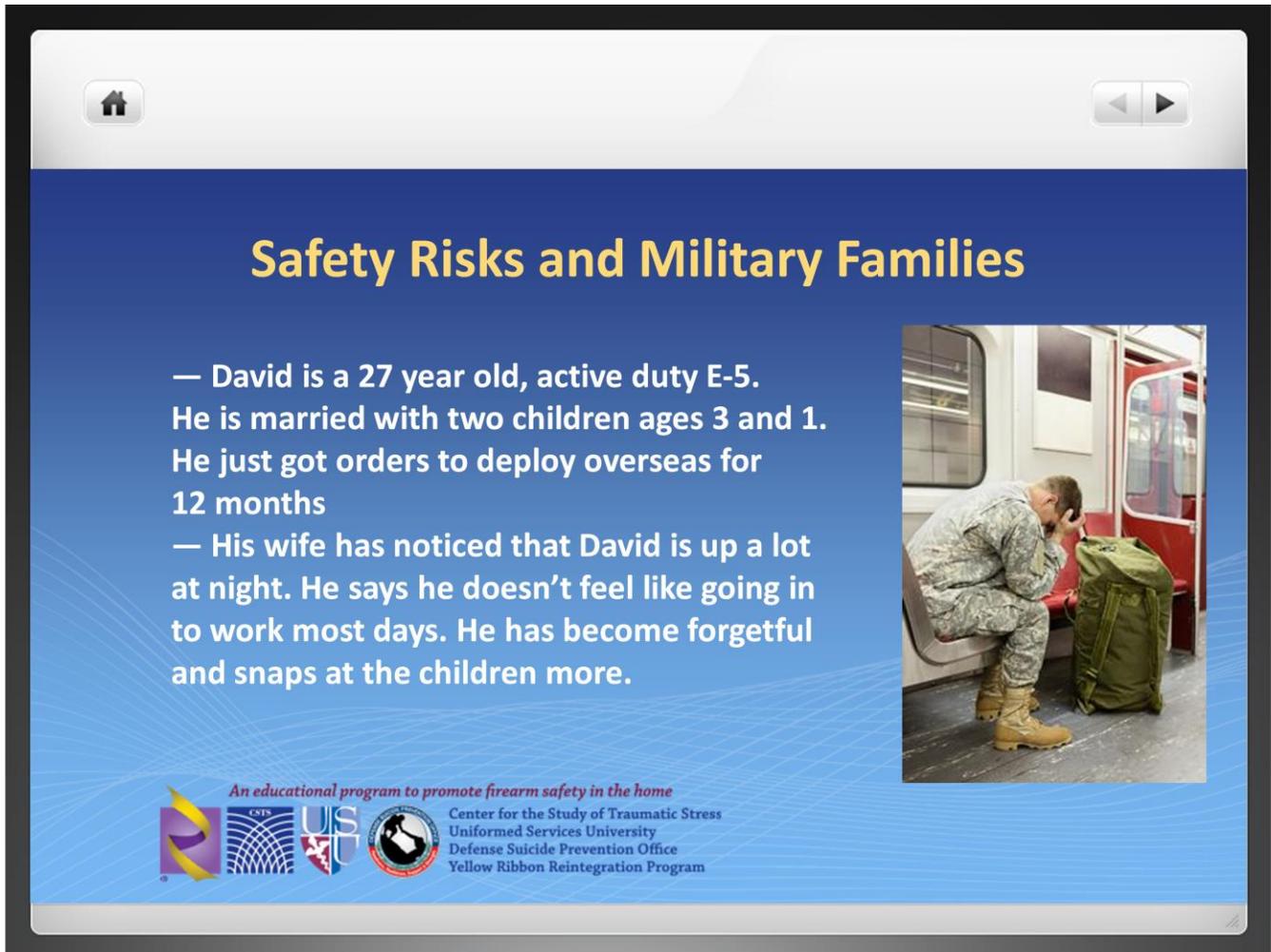
SCRIPT:

Military families face unique challenges, and when they are preparing for military deployment, there are common stressors that MAY increase risk and even become a safety issue if not properly anticipated and checked.

Ask the audience, “Are there other unique stressors as a result of deployment?” (Pause for one or two responses). Thank you for your feedback (if anyone has responded). You should add any of your specific stressors to your individual safety plan included in your packet.

Purpose: Audience Participation

To get service member and family to begin thinking about the overall safety of their household and how deployment stress can impact them.



The slide features a blue background with a white title and text. At the top, there are navigation icons: a home icon on the left and left/right arrow icons on the right. The title 'Safety Risks and Military Families' is in a large, bold, yellow font. Below the title, there are two paragraphs of white text. To the right of the text is a photograph of a soldier in camouflage uniform sitting on a red bench in a train car, talking on a mobile phone. A green duffel bag is on the floor next to him. At the bottom of the slide, there are logos for CSTS, USU, and the Defense Suicide Prevention Office, along with the text 'An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home' and 'Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, Uniformed Services University, Defense Suicide Prevention Office, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program'.

Safety Risks and Military Families

- David is a 27 year old, active duty E-5. He is married with two children ages 3 and 1. He just got orders to deploy overseas for 12 months
- His wife has noticed that David is up a lot at night. He says he doesn't feel like going in to work most days. He has become forgetful and snaps at the children more.

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SCRIPT:

Let's think about a story to help illustrate how public health safety planning can help us with the stresses of deployment.

(Read slide)

Safety Risks and Military Families

Identify Hazards

- Service member with family and stress about deployment

Assess Risk

- Is this David's typical response to stress?
- Are there other factors in play?

Take Action

- Based on circumstance, and your current assessment of risk, **what actions do you take?**

The slide features a circular diagram with three yellow boxes: 'Identify Hazards' at the top, 'Assess Risk' on the left, and 'Take Action' on the right. Arrows connect them in a clockwise cycle.

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SCRIPT:

Using our public health safety planning model as a guide, we first need to identify hazards. Getting ready to deploy is a stressful situation for military families.

Are there specific hazards unique to David? (allow audience to respond)

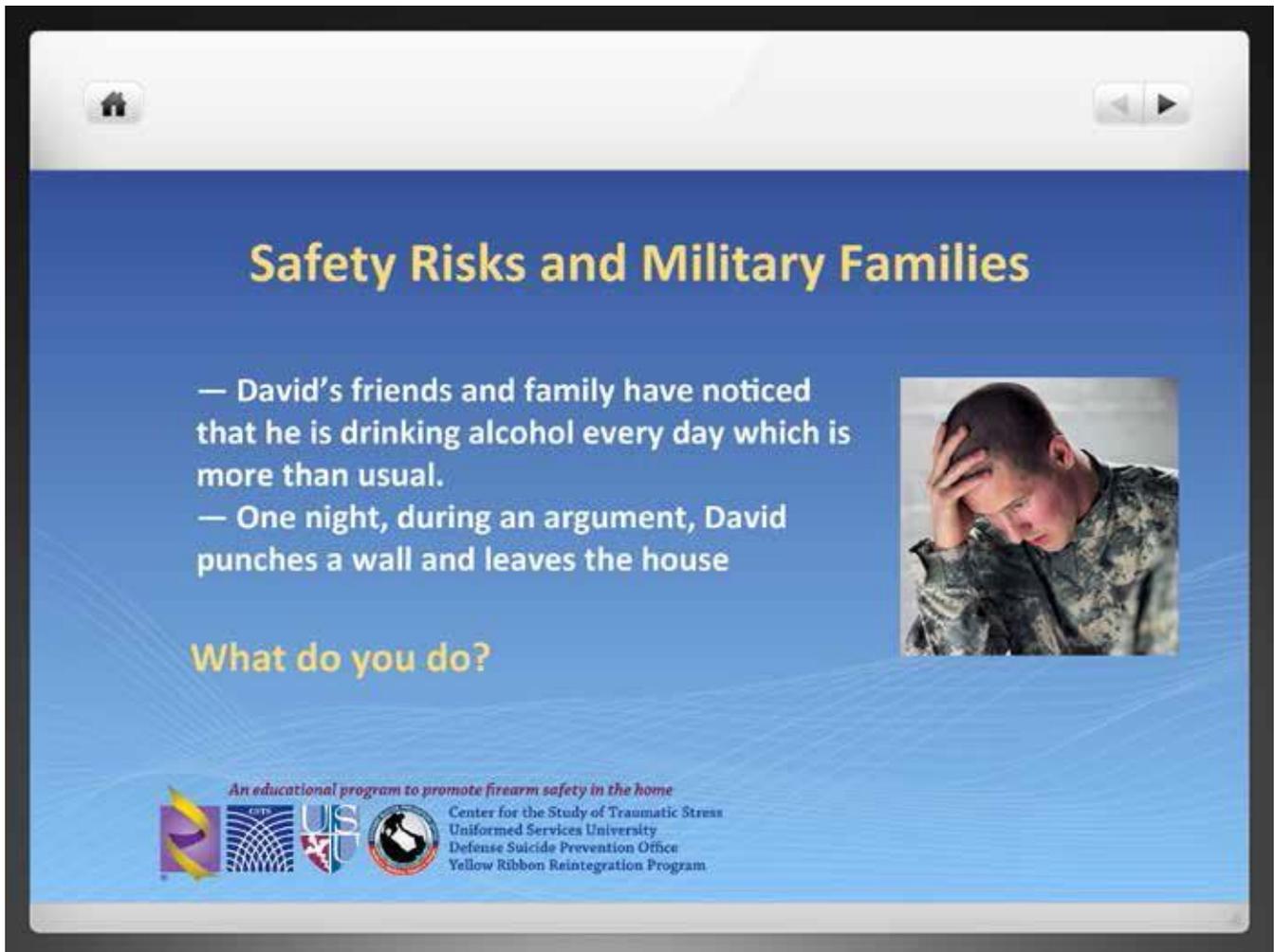
Then we assess the risk of the situation.

Is this a dangerous situation for David and his family?

(allow audience to respond)

Based on this risk what action should David and his family take?

Is there anything we should do for David?



Home icon

Navigation arrows

Safety Risks and Military Families

- David's friends and family have noticed that he is drinking alcohol every day which is more than usual.
- One night, during an argument, David punches a wall and leaves the house



What do you do?

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SCRIPT:

Continuing our story....

(read slide)

Safety Risks and Military Families

Identify Hazards

- David is drinking more and is becoming more angry

Assess Risk

- Is David becoming depressed?
- Is there a risk of family violence?

Take Action

- Based on this circumstance, **what would you do?**

The slide features a circular diagram with three yellow boxes: 'Identify Hazards' at the top, 'Assess Risk' on the left, and 'Take Action' on the right. Arrows connect them in a clockwise cycle.

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SCRIPT:

Going back to our public health safety planning model, there are new hazards of David drinking and having anger outbursts.

Are there any other hazards we should consider?

(allow audience to respond)

We need to reassess risk.

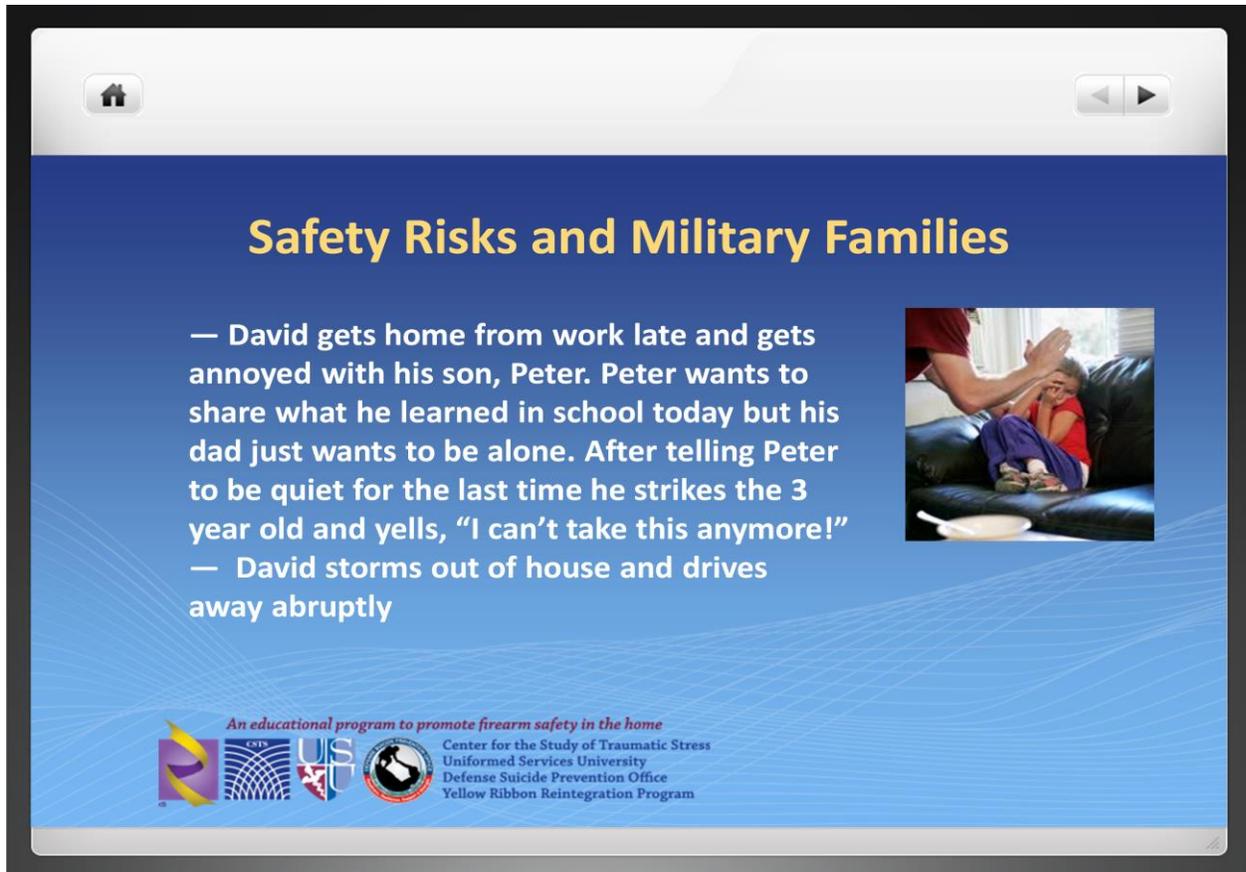
Is this a dangerous situation for David and his family?

(allow audience to respond)

Based on this risk what action should David and his family take?

What should we do?

(allow audience to respond)



Safety Risks and Military Families

- David gets home from work late and gets annoyed with his son, Peter. Peter wants to share what he learned in school today but his dad just wants to be alone. After telling Peter to be quiet for the last time he strikes the 3 year old and yells, “I can’t take this anymore!”
- David storms out of house and drives away abruptly

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SCRIPT:

Now let's continue the story further....

(read slide)

Safety Risks and Military Families

Identify Hazards

- Possible suicide statement.
- Possible family violence

Assess Risk

- Is David safe?
- Is his family safe?

Take Action

- Based on circumstance, and your current assessment of risk, **what actions do you take now?**

The diagram consists of three yellow boxes arranged in a circle, connected by blue arrows pointing clockwise. The boxes are labeled 'Identify Hazards' (top), 'Assess Risk' (left), and 'Take Action' (right).

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SCRIPT:

Clearly there are new hazards to consider. David has hit his child and may be suicidal.

Are there any other hazards we haven't considered?

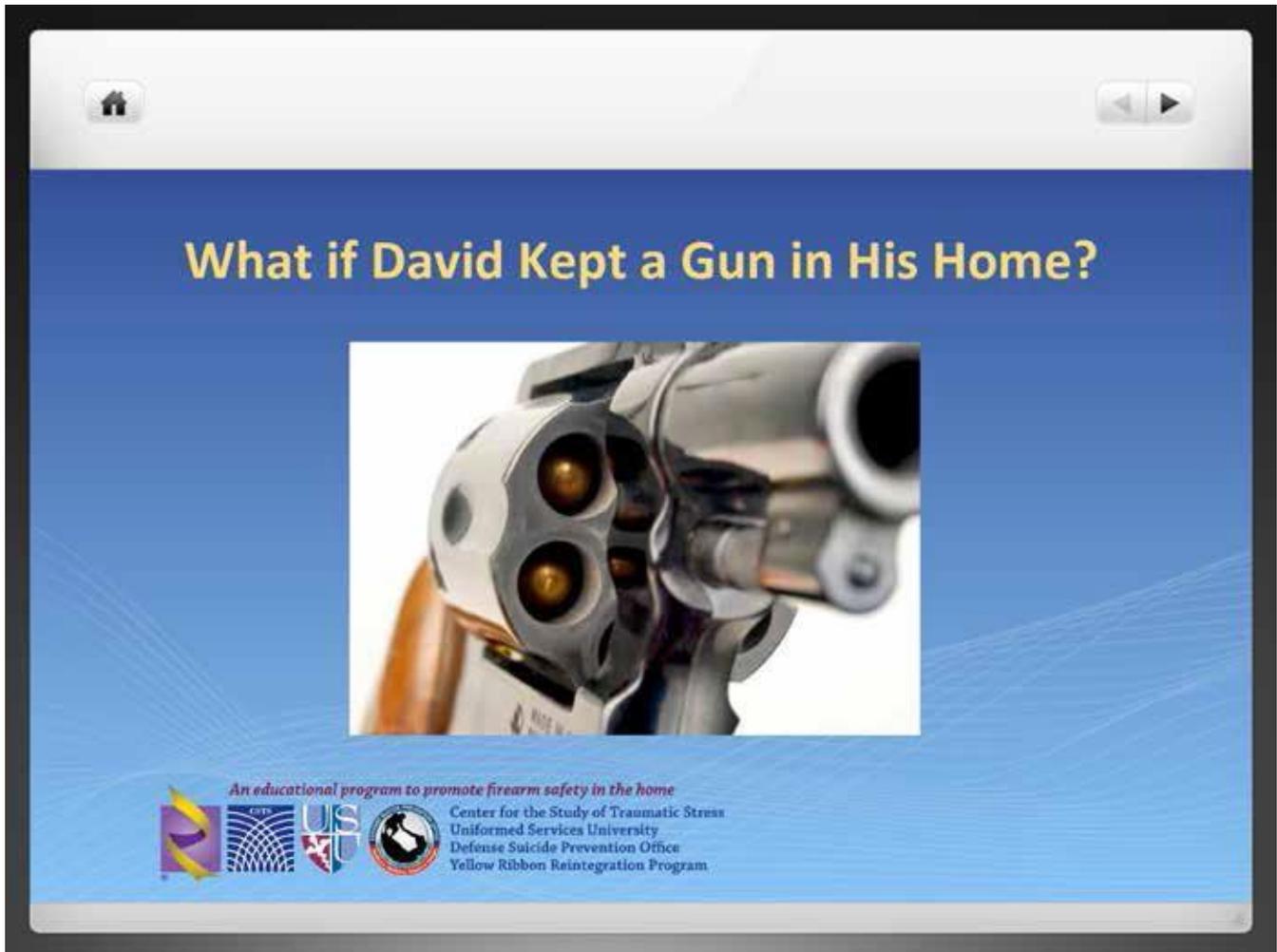
(allow audience to respond)

Reassessing risk this is CLEARLY a dangerous situation for David and his family.

Based on this risk what action should David and his family take?

What should we do?

(allow audience to respond)



SCRIPT:

What if David had a gun....

(Let the slide sit with the audience)

Now lets look at some more examples why personal firearm safety is important.

Firearm Safety in Your Home

From recent news reports

- 24 March 2011: Josh Lipstein called his father, Don. Dad could tell that something was wrong. He asked his son to unload his gun. 'Dad,' he replied, 'I can't do that.' Josh said goodbye. A few moments later the 23- year-old veteran shot himself.
- Don knew Josh was depressed and addicted to pain killers

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The New York Times, May 2011

SCRIPT:

Read the information to the audience.

Firearm Safety in Your Home

From recent news reports

- 24 March 2011: Josh Lipstein called his father, Don. Dad could tell that **something was wrong**. He asked his son to **unload his gun**. 'Dad,' he replied, **'I can't do that.'** Josh said goodbye. A few moments later the **23- year-old veteran shot himself**.
- Don knew Josh was depressed and addicted to pain killers

What would you do?

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SRIPT:

Tell me your thoughts about this.
What do you think could have been done to prevent it?

This tragedy is a “Teachable Moment.”

The slide features a blue background with a white header bar containing a home icon and navigation arrows. The main title is 'Firearm Safety in Your Home' in large yellow font. Below the title, there are three sections of text: 'Identify Hazards' with three bullet points, 'Assess Risk' with one bullet point, and 'Take Action' with one bullet point. To the right of the text is a circular flow diagram with three yellow boxes: 'Identify Hazards' at the top, 'Assess Risk' on the left, and 'Take Action' on the right, connected by blue arrows in a clockwise cycle. At the bottom, there is a line of logos and text: 'An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home' followed by logos for CPTA, USU, and a circular logo, and the text 'Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, Uniformed Services University, Defense Suicide Prevention Office, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program'.

Firearm Safety in Your Home

Identify Hazards

- Josh kept a loaded firearm
- Experiencing depression
- Addicted to painkillers

Assess Risk

- Was Josh safe?

Take Action

- Based on your current assessment of risk
what actions could you take?

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SCRIPT:

Now let's learn from this "Teachable Moment" using our public health safety planning model. You

can see some obvious hazards listed.

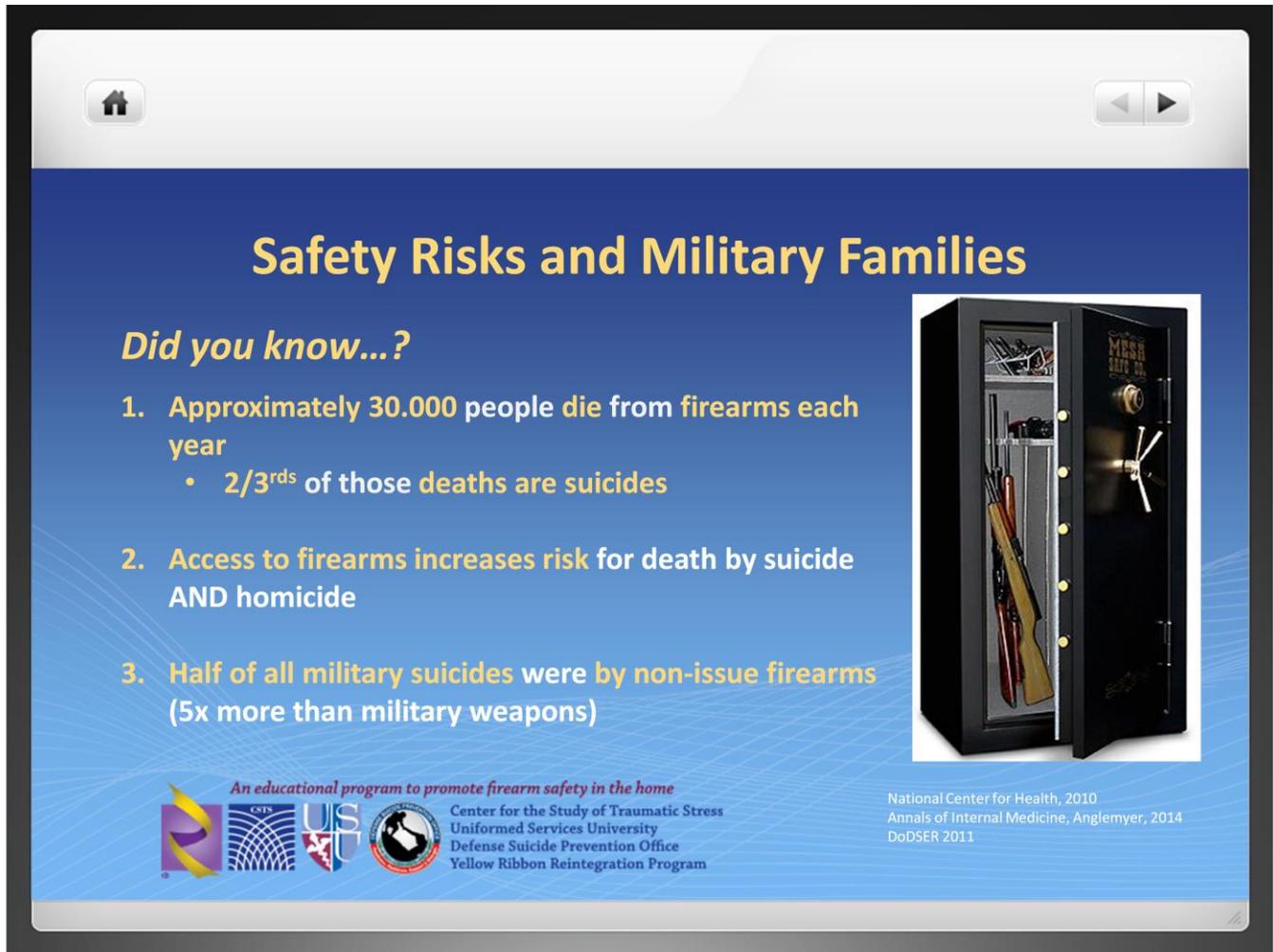
Does everyone agree with the hazards in this situation?

Based on those hazards how would you assess risk? Is Josh safe?

(allow audience to respond)

What actions should we or Josh take to reduce the risk?

(allow audience to respond)



Safety Risks and Military Families

Did you know...?

1. Approximately 30,000 people die from firearms each year
 - 2/3rds of those deaths are suicides
2. Access to firearms increases risk for death by suicide AND homicide
3. Half of all military suicides were by non-issue firearms (5x more than military weapons)

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National Center for Health, 2010
Annals of Internal Medicine, Anglemeyer, 2014
DoDSER 2011



SCRIPT:

Having a firearm in your house and experiencing stress can possibly influence suicide and violence in your home. (Read) Did you know...

Let's look at some more real world stories and think about additional risks.

Firearm Safety in Your Home

From recent news reports

- 12 August 2013: "...a child reportedly shot himself in the foot with a BB gun.... Police...determined it was an accident, according to reports."
- 12 August 2013: "...police were called to...Hospital after a child who had been shot with a pellet gun checked into the emergency room. Reports...determined that the child's siblings caused the injuries accidentally while playing."

Delaware News, ThisWeek Community News

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SCRIPT:

Read the information to the audience.

The slide is titled "Firearm Safety in Your Home" in large yellow font. Below the title, it says "From recent news reports" in white. There are two bullet points, each starting with "12 August 2013:" and containing a news report snippet. The first report says "...a child reportedly shot himself in the foot with a BB gun.... Police...determined it was an accident, according to reports." The second report says "...police were called to...Hospital after a child who had been shot with a pellet gun checked into the emergency room. Reports...determined that the child's siblings caused the injuries accidentally while playing." Below the reports is the question "What would you do?" in yellow. At the bottom, there are logos for CPTS, USU, and a globe, along with text: "An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home", "Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress", "Uniformed Services University", "Defense Suicide Prevention Office", and "Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program". On the right side, it says "Delaware News, ThisWeek Community News".

Firearm Safety in Your Home

From recent news reports

- 12 August 2013: "...a **child** reportedly shot himself in the foot with a **BB gun**.... Police...determined it was an **accident**, according to reports."
- 12 August 2013: "...police were called to...Hospital after a child who had been shot with a **pellet gun** checked into the emergency room. Reports...determined that the child's siblings caused the injuries **accidentally while playing.**"

What would you do?

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Delaware News, ThisWeek Community News

SCRIPT:

Tell me your thoughts about these stories.

What do you think could have been done to prevent them?

These are also "Teachable Moments."

The slide features a blue background with a white title 'Firearm Safety in Your Home'. On the left, there are three sections: 'Identify Hazards' with two bullet points, 'Assess Risk' with one bullet point, and 'Take Action' with one bullet point. On the right, a circular flow diagram shows three yellow boxes: 'Identify Hazards' at the top, 'Assess Risk' on the left, and 'Take Action' on the right, connected by arrows in a clockwise cycle. At the bottom, there are logos for CPTS, USU, and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, along with text identifying the program as an educational program to promote firearm safety in the home, supported by the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, Uniformed Services University, Defense Suicide Prevention Office, and Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

Firearm Safety in Your Home

Identify Hazards

- Children living in home
- Accessible pellet guns

Assess Risk

- Is this an unsafe situation?

Take Action

- Based on circumstance, and your current assessment of risk, **what actions do you take?**

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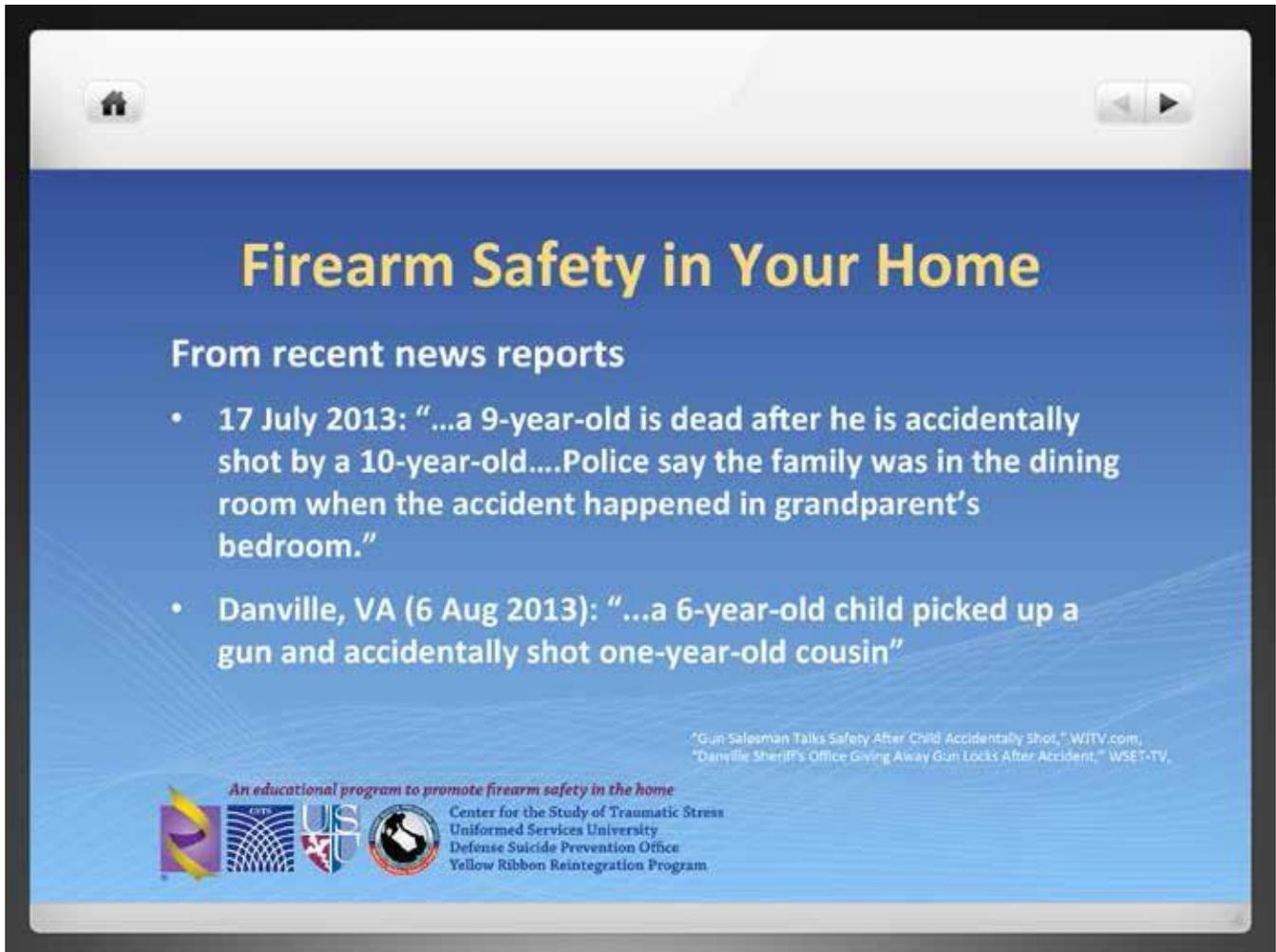
SCRIPT:

Using our public health safety planning model,
What do you think of the hazards we have listed up here? Are there any others?

Now let's assess the risk?
What do you think?
(allow audience to respond)

Given that assessment, what actions can you take to reduce the risk?
(allow audience to respond)

Finally, two more stories....



Firearm Safety in Your Home

From recent news reports

- 17 July 2013: "...a 9-year-old is dead after he is accidentally shot by a 10-year-old....Police say the family was in the dining room when the accident happened in grandparent's bedroom."
- Danville, VA (6 Aug 2013): "...a 6-year-old child picked up a gun and accidentally shot one-year-old cousin"

"Gun Salesman Talks Safety After Child Accidentally Shot," WJTV.com;
"Danville Sheriff's Office Giving Away Gun Locks After Accident," WSET-TV,

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SCRIPT:

Read the information to the audience.

Firearm Safety in Your Home

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"Gun Salesman Talks Safety After Child Accidentally Shot," WJTV.com,
"Danville Sheriff's Office Giving Away Gun Locks After Accident," WSET-TV.

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SCRIPT:

Tell me your thoughts about these stories.

What is different from the previous stories?

The "Teachable Moment" here is that children are at risk outside their home if they encounter unsecured loaded firearms.

What can we do about this for our own children and those who come to visit us?

Have you had "gun conversations" with relatives and friends where your children play?



The slide features a blue background with a white header bar containing a home icon and navigation arrows. The title 'Firearm Safety in Your Home' is in large yellow font. Below it, the text 'Did you know...?' is in a smaller yellow font. A list of three statistics follows in yellow text. To the right of the list is a photograph of a woman with long blonde hair covering her face with her hands, appearing distressed. At the bottom, there are logos for CPTA, USU, and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, along with text identifying the program as an educational program to promote firearm safety in the home, supported by the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, Uniformed Services University, Defense Suicide Prevention Office, and Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

Firearm Safety in Your Home

Did you know...?

1. For the majority of households, the factor that may have the most impact on a child's risk of firearm injury is whether the child's parents own a firearm.
2. Homicide is the second leading cause of death for youth.
3. Nearly 1,500 children younger than 18 years of age die from shootings every year.



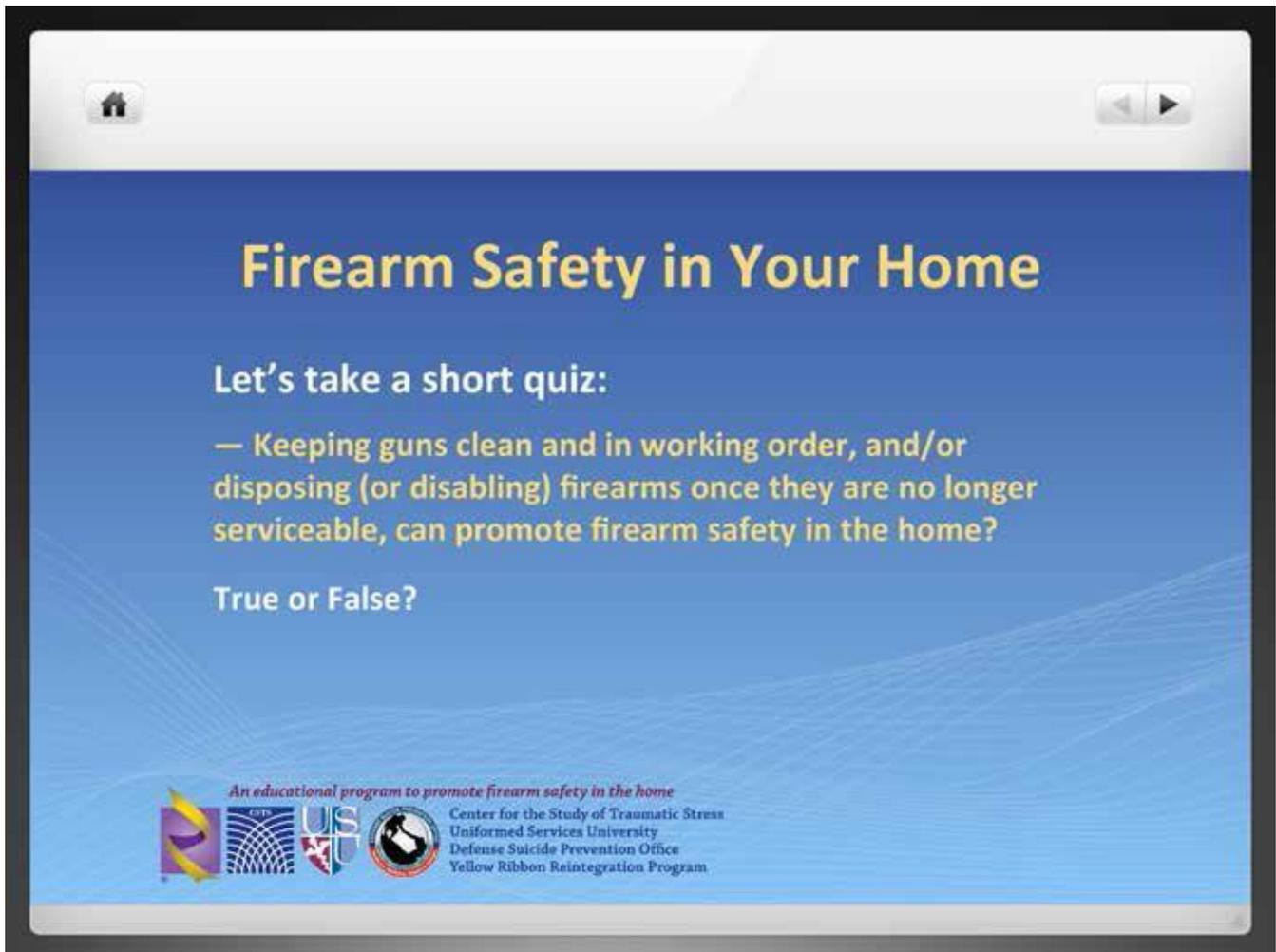
An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home

CPTA USU
Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

SCRIPT:

Having a firearm in your house and experiencing stress can possibly influence suicide and violence in your home.

(Read) Did you know...



SCRIPT:

We have created a gun safety quiz.

By a show of hands, how many believe this question is true? ...How many think it is false?



The image shows a presentation slide with a blue background and a white header bar. The header bar contains a home icon on the left and navigation arrows on the right. The main title is 'Firearm Safety in Your Home' in large, bold, yellow text. Below the title, the text reads 'Let's take a short quiz:' followed by a bullet point: '— Keeping guns clean and in working order, and/or disposing (or disabling) firearms once they are no longer serviceable, can promote firearm safety in the home?'. Below the bullet point, the text asks 'True or False?'. At the bottom of the slide, there is a row of logos and text. The logos include a stylized 'Y' and 'R' in purple and yellow, a grid pattern, the letters 'USU', and a circular seal. The text to the right of the logos reads: 'An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home', 'Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress', 'Uniformed Services University', 'Defense Suicide Prevention Office', and 'Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program'.

SCRIPT:

Would any one like to share why they answered true?



SCRIPT:

By a show of hands, how many believe this question is true? ...How many think it is false?



The image shows a presentation slide with a blue background and a white header bar. The header bar contains a home icon on the left and navigation arrows on the right. The main title is "Firearm Safety in Your Home" in large, bold, yellow text. Below the title, the word "Quiz:" is written in white. A bullet point follows: "— Untrained individuals should not have access to guns and ammunition." Below this, the text "True or False?" is written in yellow. At the bottom of the slide, there is a line of text: "An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home". Below this text are four logos: a purple and yellow abstract logo, a blue grid logo, the USU logo, and a circular logo with a penguin. To the right of these logos, the following text is listed: "Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress", "Uniformed Services University", "Defense Suicide Prevention Office", and "Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program".

Firearm Safety in Your Home

Quiz:

- Untrained individuals should not have access to guns and ammunition.

True or False?

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

SCRIPT:

Again, would any one like to say why they answered true?



The image shows a presentation slide with a blue background and a white header bar. The header bar contains a home icon on the left and navigation arrows on the right. The main title is 'Firearm Safety in Your Home' in a large, bold, yellow font. Below the title is the word 'Quiz:' in white. The quiz question is '— What percentage of children (1st and 2nd graders) know where a gun is stored in the home?' in yellow. The four multiple-choice options are listed in white: 'a. 5%', 'b. 20%', 'c. 50%', and 'd. 75%'. At the bottom of the slide, there is a line of text: 'An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home'. Below this text are four logos: a purple and yellow ribbon logo, a blue and white grid logo, the 'USU' logo, and a circular logo with a black and white figure. To the right of these logos is the text: 'Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress', 'Uniformed Services University', 'Defense Suicide Prevention Office', and 'Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program'.

SCRIPT:

How many think the correct response is A?

How many think B? C? D?

*It looks like the majority believes response **X** is correct, let's see.*

Firearm Safety in Your Home

Quiz:

— What percentage of children (1st and 2nd graders) know where a gun is stored in the home?

a. 5%

b. 20%

c. 50%

d. 75%

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

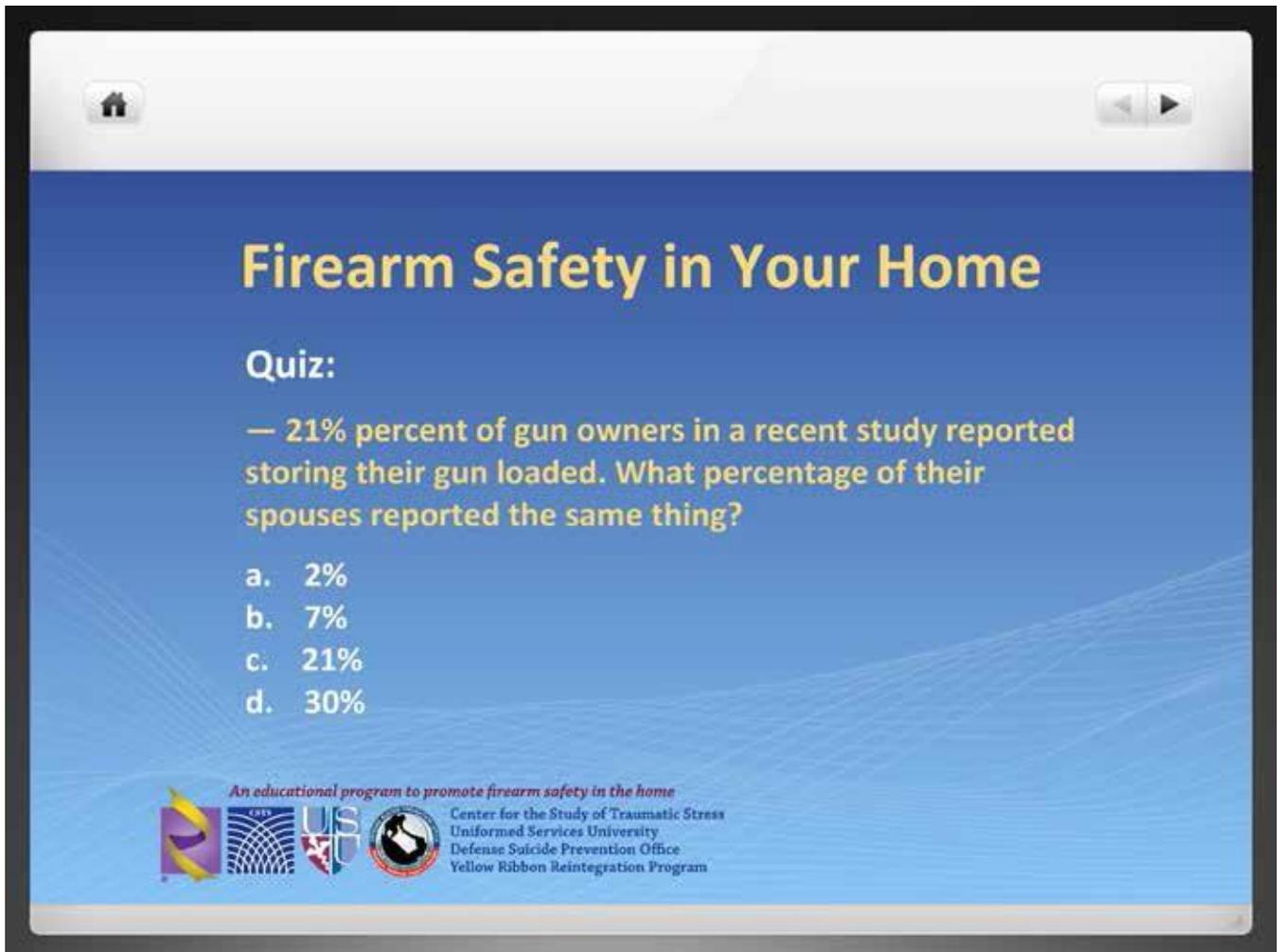
Current Opinion in Pediatrics, 1994

SCRIPT:

The correct answer is 75 percent.
Are any of you surprised by this number?

For those who have children at home or visiting, it is probably best to ASSUME they know where the guns are and act accordingly. Your children should also know what to do and say should they be at a friend's house and find a gun.

This statistic should inspire all of us whose children visit other homes to have good gun communication with our friends and family to ensure guns in other homes are not accessible to visiting children.



The image shows a presentation slide with a blue background and a white header bar. The header bar contains a home icon on the left and navigation arrows on the right. The main title is 'Firearm Safety in Your Home' in large yellow font. Below the title is the word 'Quiz:' in white. The quiz question is in yellow text: '— 21% percent of gun owners in a recent study reported storing their gun loaded. What percentage of their spouses reported the same thing?'. There are four multiple-choice options listed in white: 'a. 2%', 'b. 7%', 'c. 21%', and 'd. 30%'. At the bottom of the slide, there is a line of text: 'An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home'. Below this text are four logos: a stylized 'X' logo, the logo for the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS), the logo for Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), and the logo for the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO). To the right of these logos is the text: 'Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress', 'Uniformed Services University', 'Defense Suicide Prevention Office', and 'Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program'.

SCRIPT:

How many would select A?

...How many would select B? ...C? ...D?

It looks like “X” is the favored choice, let’s see.

Firearm Safety in Your Home

Quiz:

— 21% percent of gun owners in a recent study reported storing their gun loaded. What percentage of their spouses reported the same thing?

- a. 2%
- b. 7%**
- c. 21%
- d. 30%

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home

The Official Journal of American Pediatrics, 2000

CPTA USU
Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

SCRIPT:

Only a third of spouses knew that their partner stored a loaded gun.
Are any of you surprised by this number?

This slide certainly suggests that a conversation with your partner or spouse is necessary. You should probably assume that your spouse is unaware of your gun storage habits.

This is another example of the need for good gun communication.



The image shows a presentation slide with a blue background and a white header bar. The header bar contains a home icon on the left and navigation arrows on the right. The main title is 'Firearm Safety in Your Home' in large yellow font. Below the title is the word 'Quiz:' in white. The quiz question is: '— If firearms and ammunition are stored in a home where untrained persons live (or visit), they should be stored separately, in locked firearm cabinets, to minimize risk of unintended access'. Below the question is the text 'True or False?'. At the bottom of the slide, there is a row of logos and text. The logos include a stylized 'Y' in purple and yellow, a grid pattern, the letters 'US' in a shield, and a circular logo with a figure. The text reads: 'An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home', 'Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress', 'Uniformed Services University', 'Defense Suicide Prevention Office', and 'Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program'.

Firearm Safety in Your Home

Quiz:

— If firearms and ammunition are stored in a home where untrained persons live (or visit), they should be stored separately, in locked firearm cabinets, to minimize risk of unintended access

True or False?

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home

 Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

SCRIPT:

By a show of hands, how many believe firearms and ammunition should be stored in a locked cabinet to minimize risk of unintended access?



The image shows a presentation slide with a blue background and a white header. The header contains a home icon on the left and navigation arrows on the right. The main title is "Firearm Safety in Your Home" in large yellow font. Below the title is the word "Quiz:" in white. A bullet point follows: "— If firearms and ammunition are stored in a home where untrained persons live or visit, they should be stored separately, in locked firearm cabinets, to minimize risk of unintended access". Below this is the question "True or False?" in yellow. At the bottom, there are logos for the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, Uniformed Services University, Defense Suicide Prevention Office, and Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. The text "An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home" is written above the logos. The citation "JAMA, 2005," is in the bottom right corner.

Firearm Safety in Your Home

Quiz:

— If firearms and ammunition are stored in a home where untrained persons live or visit, they should be stored separately, in locked firearm cabinets, to minimize risk of unintended access

True or False?

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

JAMA, 2005,

SCRIPT:

Those of us who are gun owners need to have an appropriate safety plan that absolutely prevents unintended access to children and untrained household members or visitors. Sometimes even trained persons might be less safe for various reasons and should have their access prevented.

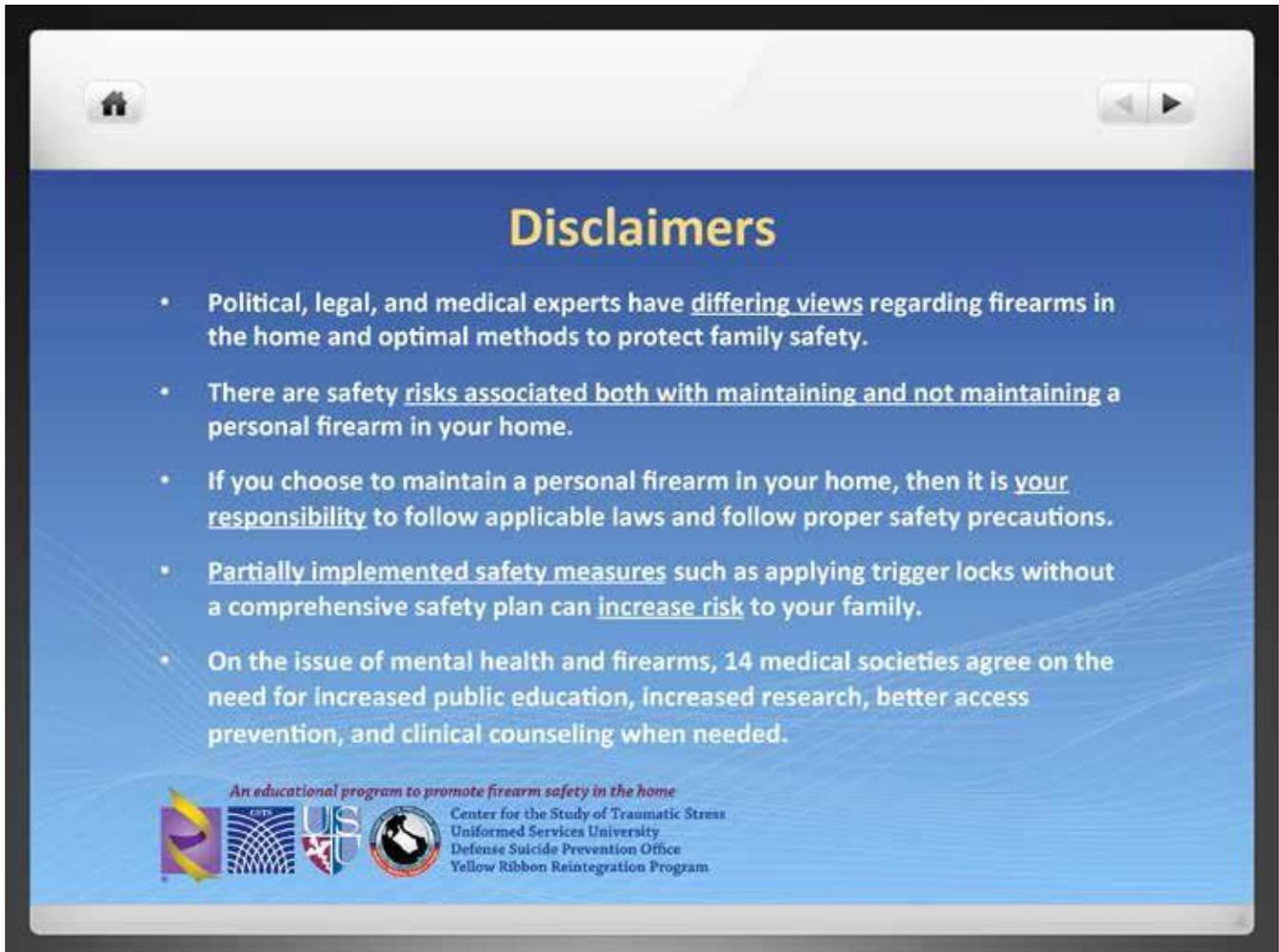
According to *JAMA (Journal of American Medical Association)*, the 4 practices of keeping a gun locked, unloaded, storing ammunition locked, and in a separate location, are each associated with a protective effect.



SCRIPT:

Now we are going to transition to the most important part of our talk.

Earlier we discussed how public health safety planning improved safety in a variety of areas; now let's think about how we can improve personal firearm safety in our homes.



The slide is titled "Disclaimers" in a large, bold, yellow font. It contains five bullet points in white text on a blue background. At the bottom, there are four logos: a stylized purple and yellow shape, a grid pattern, the letters "US" in a shield, and a globe. To the right of the logos is the text: "An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home", "Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress", "Uniformed Services University", "Defense Suicide Prevention Office", and "Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program".

Disclaimers

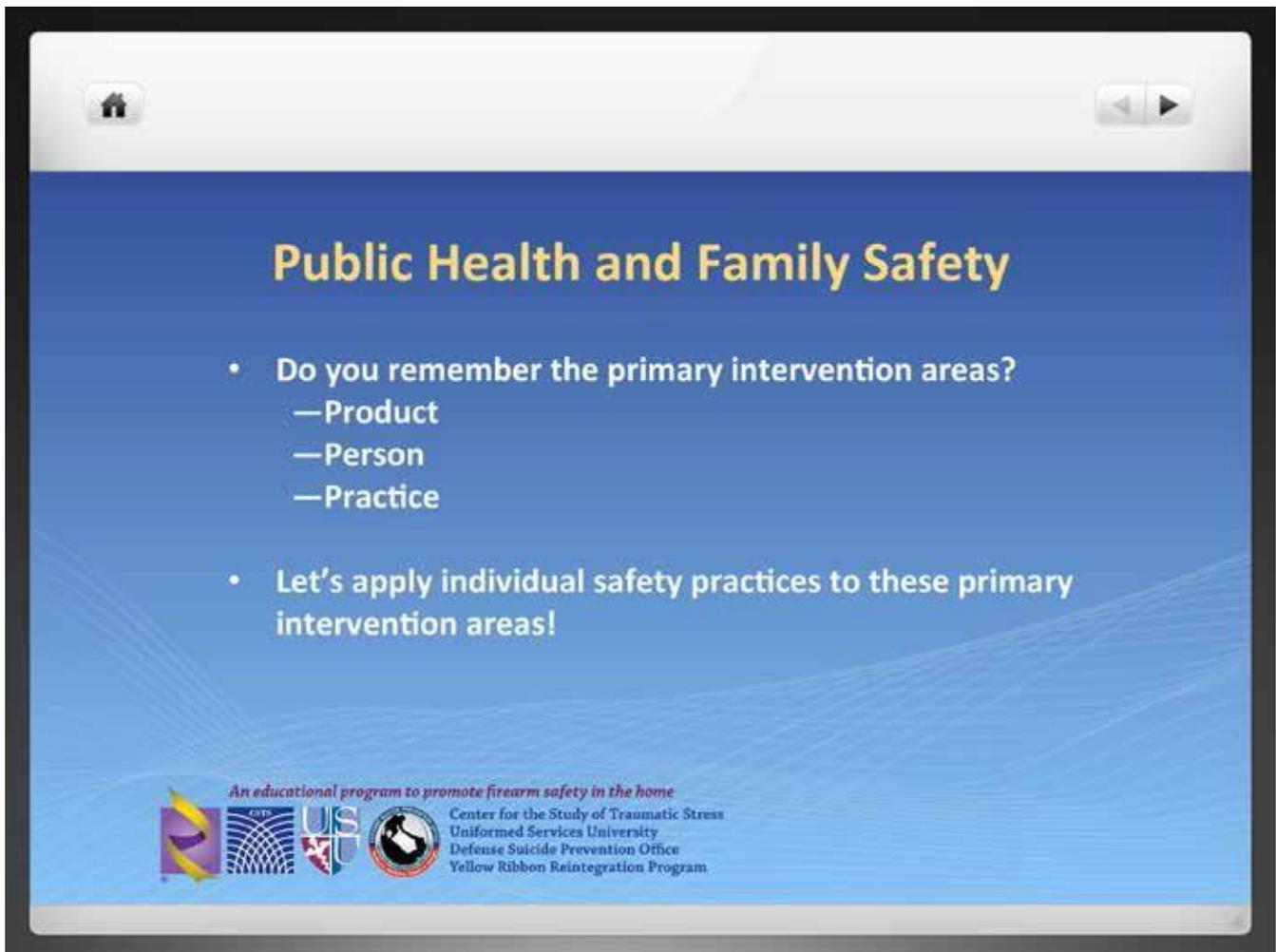
- Political, legal, and medical experts have differing views regarding firearms in the home and optimal methods to protect family safety.
- There are safety risks associated both with maintaining and not maintaining a personal firearm in your home.
- If you choose to maintain a personal firearm in your home, then it is your responsibility to follow applicable laws and follow proper safety precautions.
- Partially implemented safety measures such as applying trigger locks without a comprehensive safety plan can increase risk to your family.
- On the issue of mental health and firearms, 14 medical societies agree on the need for increased public education, increased research, better access prevention, and clinical counseling when needed.

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home
Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

SCRIPT:

Before we talk about this sometimes controversial area, I would like for you to consider some additional information.

(Allow audience time to read slide)

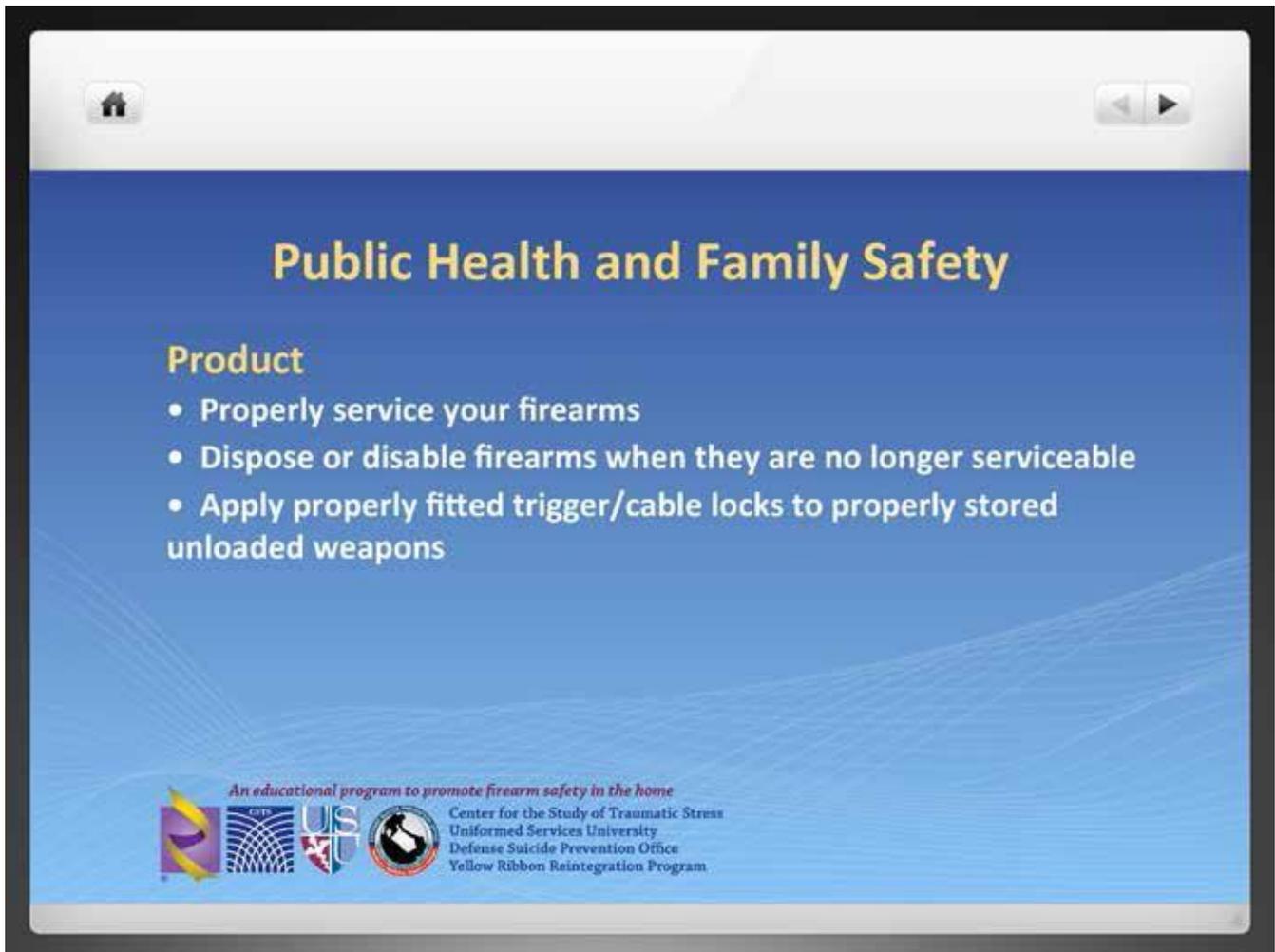


SCRIPT:

Health and Family Safety Planning go together!

Whether your “family” includes a spouse, partner, children, or roommates you should still apply these practices.

A safety plan should cover general family safety risks, disaster planning and firearm safety as well. Here we will break down personal firearm safety planning into three basic components — product, person and practice.



SCRIPT:

When we consider the Product component of the actual firearm, few would disagree with the first two statements.

Please remember that applying a properly fitted trigger/cable lock to a properly stored (unloaded) weapon adds an extra level of safety.

A cable lock **DOES NOT REPLACE** the need to store guns and ammo in separate and locked gun cases to ensure unauthorized users do not gain access.



SCRIPT:

When we consider the Person component, we must include the owner of the firearm and anyone who might gain unintended access to it.

All weapon users should have appropriate weapon safety training. Any children in the household should have appropriate safety education about what to do should they ever find a weapon.

Finally, there may be circumstances when even trained users should not have access to their personal firearms. If mental or physical illness compromise ability to make good decisions, or if personal conflict or drugs or alcohol might be clouding judgment, it is better to have the weapon and ammunition secured and inaccessible. This is what we mean by an alternate storage plan. It is the responsibility of the gun owner to establish this in advance.

The slide features a blue background with a white title and a list of practice points. At the bottom, there are logos for CSIS, USU, and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, along with text identifying the program as an educational program to promote firearm safety in the home, supported by the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, Uniformed Services University, Defense Suicide Prevention Office, and Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

Public Health and Firearm Safety

Practice

- Keep personal firearms in locked gun cabinet
- Store ammunition separately
- Gun communication with spouse, partner, roommate or friends
- Gun communication with children

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home

CSIS USU
Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

SCRIPT:

When we consider Practice, clear evidence shows that the first two actions increase safety.

Equally important is **GUN COMMUNICATION** with anyone in the family or household who might gain access to the firearm. As we have already seen, children know about firearms in the home even at an early age. They need to understand the family rules pertaining to firearms.

Communication with your spouse or partner is equally important, and they should know the location and condition of personal firearms in the home. They should be involved in developing alternate storage plans as well.



SCRIPT:

While there are elements common to all Firearm Safety Plans, your plan should be unique to your situation.

Regularly update your plan, especially when your circumstances change.

When working on your safety plan, use today's talk as practice for identifying hazards in your home, assessing risk, and taking action when needed.

Don't forget to use your safety plan when thinking about the product, the person, and the practice.

Let's grow from these "Teachable Moments," and help avoid further firearm related accidents.

Please keep today's handout as a guide when you put your family firearm safety plan into action.

Finally, If you're truly committed to enhancing personal firearm safety in your home please sign on to your own pledge at the bottom of your planning document. This is for you to keep as a reminder.

Firearm Safety Planning

DoD

- Military Crisis Line:
 - 1-800-273-8255, Press "1"
- Vets-4-Warriors..... <http://vets4warriors.com>
 - 24/7 peer support (855-838-8255)
- Defense Suicide Prevention Office..... <http://suicideoutreach.org/>
- Military One Source..... <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>
- After Deployment..... <http://www.afterdeployment.org>
- Guard & Reserve..... http://www.dcoe.mil/Families/Guard_and_Reserve.aspx
- Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program..... <http://www.yellowribbon.mil/>

If you would like a complementary cable to help you get started on your own Firearm Safety Plan, then please remain after the session.

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home

 Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

SCRIPT:

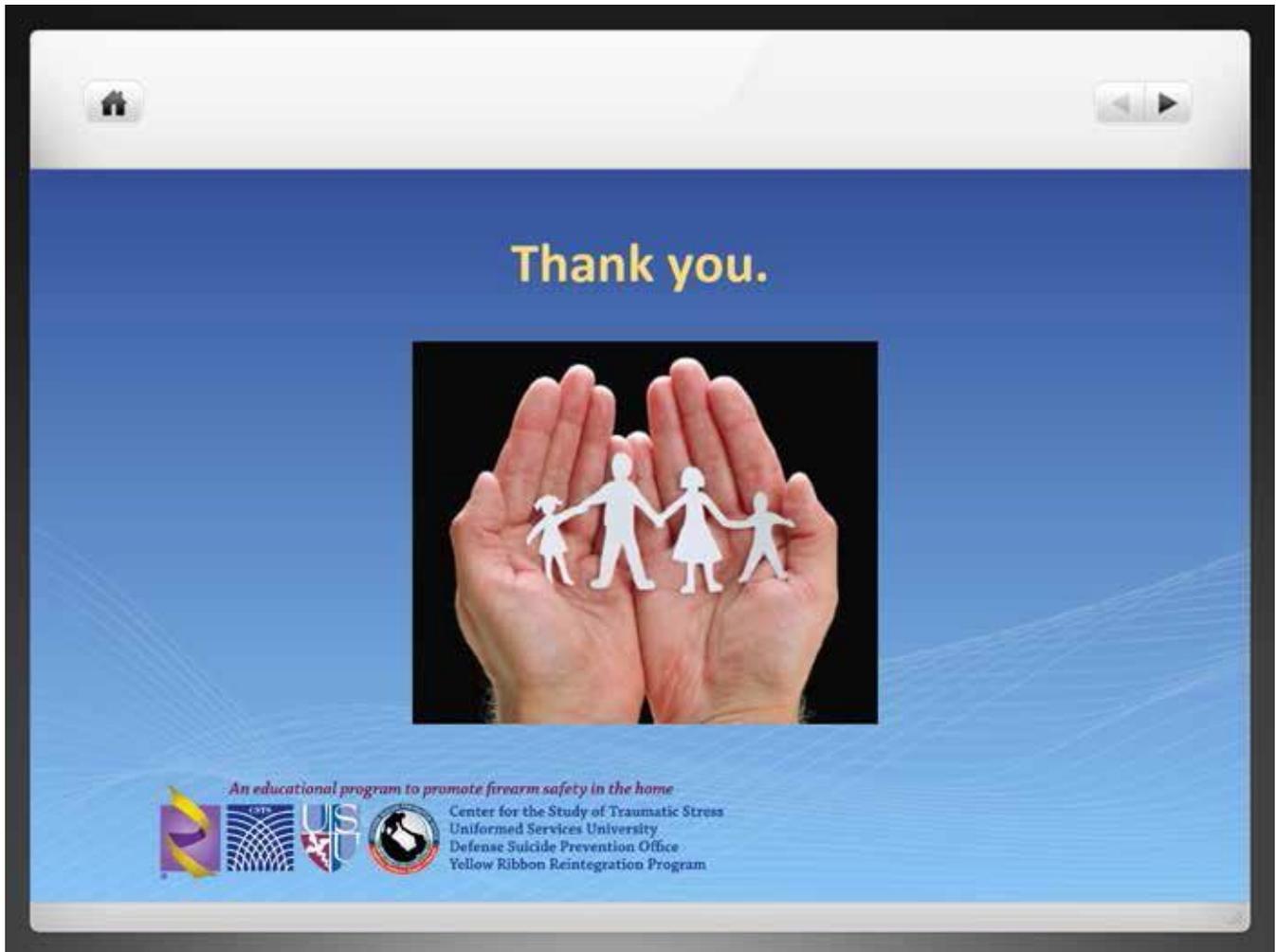
Finally, here are a number of resources for you and your family if you ever find yourself in a situation with an increased safety risk.

What I would like us all to do is pull out our cell phones (presenter should do the same, holding it up for all to see what you are doing) ...For future use if needed, type in (8-0-0) 2-7-3 dash 8-2-5-5, this is the *Military Crisis Line*. Now it is in your phone and available to you if you ever need to speak to someone confidentially.

Thank you again for your attention and good luck with your planning!

If you would like a complementary cable to help you get started on your own Firearm Safety Plan, then please remain after the session.

(We also would like to encourage you all to take a few minutes to participate in our anonymous post discussion survey that will be e-mailed to you, as a link, in 30–45 days.)



Firearm Safety at Home

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home

Pre-Training Survey

Please **CIRCLE** the most appropriate answer:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Are you single, married or living w roommate? | Single Married Roommate |
| 2. Do children (less than 18 years old) live in your house apartment? | Yes No N/A |
| 3. Do children (less than 18 years old) ever visit your house apartment? | Yes No N/A |
| 4. Do you, a spouse or a roommate store personal firearm(s) at home? | Yes No N/A |
| 5. Do you visit w someone who keeps guns in their home? | Yes No N/A |

If you answered NO to BOTH questions #4m and #5, then STOP HERE

If you answered **YES to question #4**, then please answer these questions:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| A. Are firearm(s) stored in a locked gun cabinet? | Yes No N/A |
| B. Are firearms stored unloaded? | Yes No N/A |
| C. Is ammo stored in a locked cabinet? | Yes No N/A |
| D. Is ammo stored in a locked cabinet separate from firearm(s)? | Yes No N/A |
| E. Have you discussed firearm safety w those at home? | Yes No N/A |

If you answered **NO to question #5**, then please STOP HERE.

If you answered **YES to question #5**, then please answer these questions:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| A. In homes you visit, are firearm(s) stored in a locked gun cabinet? | Yes No Don't Know |
| B. In homes you visit, are firearms stored unloaded? | Yes No Don't Know |
| C. In homes you visit, is ammo stored in a locked cabinet? | Yes No Don't Know |
| D. In homes you visit, is ammo stored in a locked cabinet separate from firearm(s)? | Yes No Don't Know |
| E. Have you discussed firearm safety w others whose homes you visit? | Yes No |

Thank you for completing this ANONYMOUS survey and for supporting firearm safety in the home!

N/A = Not applicable

Firearm Safety at Home

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home

Firearm Safety Pledge

Safety Risks & Military Families

1. Military families experience unique deployment related stressors that may increase safety risk:
 - Heightened anxiety for the service member and the family
 - Longer/unpredictable work hours
 - Family/child care issues during time of separation
 - New financial challenges
 - Separation from family support
 - Decreased community connections
 - Single spouse maintaining household
 2. Recognizing situations that may increase risk in your home is an essential component of pre-deployment preparation
 3. Are there additional deployment related factors that that may increase risk in your home during this upcoming deployment?
-
-

Resources

Command Resources:

Medical/Chaplain/Family Services Center

DoD

Military Crisis Line:	1-800-273-8255, Press "1"
Vets-4-Warriors	24/7 peer support (855-838-8255); vets4warriors.com
Defense Suicide Prevention Office	http://suicideoutreach.org/
Military One Source:	http://www.militaryonesource.mil/
After Deployment:	http://www.afterdeployment.org
Guard & Reserve:	http://www.dcoe.mil/Families/Guard_and_Reserve.aspx
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program:	http://www.yellowribbon.mil/

Personal Firearm Safety Planning

1. Do you have children living in your home? **Yes or No**
 2. Do you ever have children visiting your home? **Yes or No**
 3. Does your child visit other houses? **Yes or No**
 4. What actions have you taken to keep children safe with respect to firearms?
-
-

5. How does your family safety plan change when a spouse is deployed?
-
-

Continued

Gun Communication

1. What general concerns would you like to discuss with your spouse or other family members regarding personal firearms stored in your home and/or the homes of friends/family?

2. What specific concerns would you like to discuss, with your spouse or other family members, regarding personal firearm safety during period of upcoming deployment?

3. What specific concerns would you like to discuss regarding changing risk presented by children as they grow?
 - Toddler: _____
 - Elementary school: _____
 - Junior high/high school: _____

Personal Firearm Safety Plan for the Home (check when complete)

1. When you develop your personal firearm safety plan, you must consider the following as they may increase the level of risk in your home:
 - Presence of children in the home
 - Age of children in the home
 - Spouse familiarity with personal firearms
 - Deployment status of active service member
 - Medical and/or Mental Health status of family members in the home
 - Substance abuse problems in the home
2. Product — Firearm Safety Practices
 - Properly service your firearms
 - Dispose or disable firearms when they are no longer serviceable
 - Apply properly fitted trigger locks/cable to properly stored unloaded weapons
3. Person — Personal Firearm Safety Practices
 - Attend weapon's safety courses as needed
 - If there are medical, mental health, or substance related factors that may increase the risk of maintaining firearm in home, then pursue alternate storage plan (i.e. command storage in base armory etc.)
4. Practice — Family Safety Practices/Rules
 - Keep personal firearms in locked gun cabinet
 - Keep ammunition locked separately and inaccessible to unintended users
 - Practice good Gun Communication and discuss issues of firearm safety with your spouse, friends, and children when appropriate

Personal Firearm Safety Pledge

- I will practice good “Gun Communication” and discuss personal firearm safety plans with my spouse, children (when indicated) and family/friends (when indicated).
- I will implement a comprehensive Firearm Safety Plan in my home and review it regularly as risks change.
- I will find alternate storage locations for personal firearms in the event of problems such as severe medical illness, substance abuse or mental illness in order to minimize the risk of suicide or violence in my home.

Signature

Date

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress Department of
Psychiatry
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences 4301 Jones Bridge Road
Building B, Rm. 3068 Bethesda, MD
20814 www.cstsonline.org

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office Yellow Ribbon Reintegration
Program

