



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
6TH MEDICAL LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT CENTER  
693 NEIMAN STREET  
FORT DETRICK, MD 21702-5022

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

MCMR-LCZ

22 May 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR 6<sup>th</sup> Medical Logistics Management Center (MLMC) Soldiers and Families

SUBJECT: Memorial Day Weekend Safety Message

1. "Freedom isn't free." Everyone is familiar with these words--especially in this patriotic region of the country, Frederick County and West Virginia. Ease of remembrance and the simplicity of its truth give the words strength and staying power. This holiday weekend, particularly Monday, is an appropriate time to revisit the real meaning of "freedom isn't free." Memorial Day is a day set aside for all Americans to honor our fallen countrymen who gave their lives serving our nation. We take this time to salute their dedication to duty because they made the ultimate sacrifice for our way of life and the privilege of living free.
2. Memorial Day also traditionally marks the beginning of the "101 Days of Summer" and serves as the official kickoff for the summer recreation season. Many Soldiers and family members will celebrate with barbecues, picnics, parades, and extended travel plans. Swimming pools will also open for the first time this year. As outdoor activities increase we must instill effective risk mitigation in our Soldiers as they plan their holiday and summer activities.
3. Off-duty accident prevention must be at the forefront of our efforts. According to the US Coast Guard, the majority of maritime summer accidents occur as a direct result of people consuming alcohol and operating vessels while intoxicated. Statisticians predict that as many as 45 Soldiers will die in traffic accidents during the 101 critical days of summer if something is not done to break this deadly pattern. Across the Army, POV accident prevention has to be the primary focus. The majority of fatal traffic accidents occur off duty, involve alcohol consumption, reckless driving, and a failure to use seatbelts.
4. As leaders, we must be engaged at every level to influence the mindset that leads to safe behavior. I charge each of you with the mission of enforcing standards, sharing and applying your safety knowledge, watching out for each other, and working together as a team to ensure you and your loved one's safety. Regardless of how you choose to celebrate Memorial Day, manage these risks with care. Our training, good judgment and common sense will help minimize the risk and significantly increase the enjoyment of not only this holiday, but throughout the rest of summer as well.
5. At a minimum, all first line supervisors/leaders will ensure the Soldiers traveling during pass or leave complete the Travel Risks Planning System (TRiPS) risk assessment at <https://safety.army.mil>. Leaders will brief every Soldier on holiday hazards and countermeasures they can take to avoid mishaps ensuring they stress the use of seatbelts and the hazards of drinking and driving.
6. Finally, I challenge each of you to think safety first during the Memorial Holiday weekend and as you plan your activities throughout the summer season.
7. Have a safe, happy, and relaxing weekend. Please remember that this is the time to be mindful of the sacrifices made by those who have gone before us to make us and keep us free. If in your travels you see a veteran, please thank them for the risk they took, also keep those who cannot be with us in your thoughts and prayers. From the Minutemen to the soldiers of today, the sacrifice is the same.

*REGIONALLY FOCUSED / GLOBALLY DEPLOYABLE...LET'S ROLL!*

*Vanguards,  
Thanks for all you do!  
Lori and I wish you and your families  
a safe & enjoyable Memorial Day  
Weekend. Take care and God bless.*

*Michael J. Talley*  
MICHAEL J. TALLEY  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Commanding