



*Preserving and protecting our Army's combat resources*

**U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER**

## Labor Day 2020

The United States Army is one of our Nation's largest employers and boasts an incredibly diverse workforce of Soldiers and civilian employees in locations around the globe. This Labor Day we will pause, per tradition, on the first Monday of September to recognize the contributions of American workers and, by extension, the sacrifices you make to maintain our national industry and economy. Thank you for what you do daily to protect our freedoms and way of life.

With restrictions from COVID-19 gradually easing, both on post and in local communities, we must remain vigilant not only in our fight against the virus, but also accidental risk. Newfound freedom to travel more widely or visit previously closed locations, such as bars and restaurants, means the fundamentals of risk management are just as important as ever. Both leaders and Soldiers will need to work together to ensure the thrill of resuming something close to normal doesn't result in preventable, tragic loss.

To date in 2020, the Army has lost 29 fewer Soldiers to mishaps than this time last year. We finished July, our deadliest month in terms of fatal off-duty mishaps, with one fatality ... one too many, but a significant improvement over recent history. Our goal is to keep moving the force in that direction and see everyone at their place of duty AFTER the holiday. Every Soldier who makes it home at mission's end is cause for celebration, and it's no different off duty. By playing it safe, having a plan for every activity you enjoy, slowing down to enjoy the drive, and using required safety devices like seat belts and life preservers, you'll continue being there for your family, friends and teammates.

This year has been absolutely unlike any other in recent memory, but as always, the Army goes rolling along and makes this Nation proud. Thank you again for your service and sacrifice. We wish you all a safe and enjoyable Labor Day.

People First – Winning Matters – Readiness Through Safety!

William L. Gardner II  
Command Sergeant Major

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Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

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