



U.S. ARMY



Preserving and protecting our Army's combat resources

U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER

Veterans Day 2020

Soldiers are our Army's most precious resource, and America's veterans are our most precious national treasure. The contributions of the men and women who've worn the uniform of our military branches are immeasurable, and it's only fitting that we pause again this November 11 to honor their service and sacrifice. And to those still serving — it's your day as well. Thank you for what you do every day for our Army and our Nation.

While this Veterans Day will fall on a Wednesday and preclude many of the safety concerns typical of long weekends, now is the time to start planning for the holiday block leave period just a few short weeks away. The weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day are the second-deadliest time of year for Soldiers off duty, trailing only the summer season. As always, private motor vehicle mishaps are of primary concern.

It's imperative that leaders counsel their Soldiers on safety and risk management prior to departure on leave or pass. I urge all first-line supervisors to visit the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center website for risk mitigation tools designed for use at the unit level. Chief among these is the Off Duty Safety Awareness Presentation, a ready-made safety brief that's perfect for engaging Soldiers in dialogue on off-duty hazards. You can download the complete presentation and speaker notes at <https://safety.army.mil/odsap>.

We are personally grateful for each and every one of you. Thank you again for being part of this great Army, and we wish you all a safe and enjoyable Veterans Day.

People First — Winning Matters — Readiness Through Safety!

William L. Gardner II
Command Sergeant Major

Andrew C. Himes
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding