



Preserving and protecting our Army's combat resources  
**U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER**

## Memorial Day 2021

As the seasons change from winter to spring and spring to summer, the American commitment to honoring those men and women in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice remains constant. Through the quality of your service, you safeguard their legacy not just on Memorial Day, but every day. Thank you for all you do.

This long holiday break will also mark the traditional start of summer and all that entails, both on and off duty. Many of you will be reporting to new duty stations, executing longer training days and perhaps assuming new leadership roles, all while maximizing leisure time with family and friends during vacations or quick getaways over extended weekends like this one. Regardless of activity, summer is the Army's deadliest time of year, and we must mitigate risk and make good decisions in all we do.

Dynamic risk management — making real-time adjustments to our plans as conditions change — is applicable both on and off duty. The same environmental impacts of rain, fog or other obscurants that would cause us to modify or pause training missions are just as hazardous during personal travel. Delaying your departure until the weather clears or pulling over for the night due to fatigue might be disappointing in the short term, but it ensures you remain safe for the fun ahead. Whatever your plans, always have a plan, but be flexible enough to roll with the unexpected.

As always, find tools to help you manage your risk at <https://safety.army.mil>. We wish you all a happy and enjoyable Memorial Day and safe summer in the upcoming months.

People First — Winning Matters — Readiness Through Safety!

William L. Gardner II  
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Commanding