

Commanding General's Holiday Safety Message



Columbus Day

8 OCT 2021

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Natick Teammates,

Many of our teammates will use this long weekend to travel and take a well-deserved break. If you will be driving this weekend, be mindful of the impending seasonal changes and potential travel risks. Plan trips thoughtfully and inspect vehicles before traveling. Start all trips well-rested and ensure everyone in the vehicle is buckled. While driving, check-in with yourself to avoid driving distractions. Drink responsibly and never drink and drive.

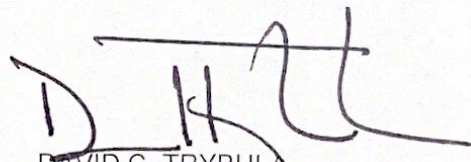
Fall is finally upon us, and the new season brings new safety risks. Daylight hours are beginning to shorten, therefore children, pets, wildlife, pedestrians, and bikers can appear suddenly. Wet leaves will soon be on the ground and causing additional hazards. We must also remember to stay diligent while safe-guarding ourselves and loved ones against COVID-19. Help your Families, children, coworkers, teachers, and child care workers by getting vaccinated, wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and washing your hands.

October is also Distracted Driving Month. According to the Federal Highway Administration drivers have a higher risk of being involved in a deadly vehicle crash in October because more travelers are on the road for fall festivals, football games, and other events. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly 3,330 fatal crashes happen Nation-wide in October.

NSSC continues to prioritize suicide prevention among its Soldiers, staff, Family Members and Retirees. This year's theme "Connect to Protect – Support is Within Reach" draws attention to connections with others, the community, and suicide prevention resources. Check out the Army's "[Simple Things Save Lives](#)" video highlighting the everyday interactions that build strong relationships, creating a protective factor against suicide as we continue to be there for each other.

Be safe and alert this weekend. Remember most injuries and fatalities occur off-duty because of distractions and human error. Make it your priority to know and prevent the common factors leading to unsafe acts. Get some much deserved rest this weekend but stay vigilant and be safe.

Army Safe is Army Strong!
People First! Winning Matters!



DAVID C. TRYBULA
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding