



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

Soldier Holiday Leave 2022

The holiday season is just around the corner, and many Soldiers will be hitting the roads to catch up with family and friends and spend time with loved ones. While the holiday leave period, which runs from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, is a time for traditions and celebrations, it's also the second-deadliest time of year for Soldiers off duty. To help ensure everyone returns to their formations safely, it is imperative that leaders talk to their Soldiers about risk management prior to departure on leave or pass.

The tools and information provided by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center at <https://safety.army.mil>, meant to serve first-line leaders, include counseling checklists, small-unit leader cards and downloadable safety briefings. The Off-Duty Safety Awareness Presentation, a ready-made safety brief that's perfect for engaging Soldiers in dialogue on off-duty hazards, is available for download with speaker notes at <https://safety.army.mil/odsap>.

Like summertime, private motor vehicle mishaps (sedans, trucks and SUVs) during the holidays remain the largest killer of Soldiers. The Remedial Driver Training program, available through installation safety offices, is a proven tool that helps make better drivers, whether on or off duty. As a commander, you can elect to send your Soldiers to this eight-hour, behavior-focused training based on observed reckless driving behavior, reported accidents, speeding infractions or as a subjective call. It's your tool, so maximize it when needed. Remain engaged with your Soldiers' off-duty activities so you can spot risk-taking behaviors.

Reducing off-duty mishaps will always be challenging, but I'm convinced that through your effective and engaged leadership, coupled with better application of the risk management tools highlighted, we will succeed.

You have worked hard and earned this time off. We want you to make great memories this holiday season, but remember that for your families, friends and battle buddies, your continued presence in their lives is the most precious gift you can give. Thank you again for being part of this great Army, and we look forward to seeing you back in 2023. Happy and safe holidays to you and yours!

People First! Winning Matters! Readiness Through Safety!

James L. Light
Command Sergeant Major

Gene Meredith
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding