

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday and Lunar New Year Holiday Safety Awareness

This month we celebrate two significant holidays, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Lunar New Year. On January 16, 2017, our nation will commemorate the life and legacy of one of America's most respected civil rights leaders, Dr. King. From January 27-30, 2017, we will observe Lunar New Year, a major Korean holiday spent with family and friends. As we prepare for the long weekends ahead, let us reaffirm our commitment to protecting our most valuable assets – our Soldiers, Civilians, and Families.

Dr. King often taught that we draw strength when we stand together. As Eighth Army teammates, it is imperative that we stay vigilant and look out for one another. Leaders throughout the Korean-peninsula must be engaged and reinforce safety as a priority and integral part of all on and off duty activities.

Many Koreans will be on the roadways during Lunar New Year. If you plan to travel during this time, expect severe traffic and long delays. Always remember that when making travel plans it is essential to be prepared, maintain awareness of changing weather and road conditions, and allow for extra travel time. Do not become a statistic. Never drink and drive or allow others to get behind the wheel after consuming alcohol.

Please take care of yourselves and remain ready and resilient during the holidays.

Pacific Victors!

RICHARD E. MERRITT

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