



29 May 2017

**Memorial Day Safety Message**

This Memorial Day, we honor those Americans who have put their lives on the line to bravely defend our country's freedom. I ask you to take a moment to remember the men and women who served and sacrificed their lives to protect our great Nation and hard-won freedom. Their selfless service must never be forgotten and we must continue to uphold their legacy on the Korean Peninsula.

Memorial Day weekend also marks the beginning of summer where many of our personnel will take advantage of the warm weather. I encourage you to relax and spend time with family and friends, but do so with safety in mind. When making travel plans or participating in outdoor recreation remember to assess the risks and incorporate safety into every activity.

Historically, this timeframe brings increased risks to Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members and generates a spike in misconduct and accidents. Indiscipline can spoil what should be an enjoyable time so we must work together to keep everyone safe and focus on readiness. Leaders at all levels must stay engaged, maintain situational awareness and discuss appropriate personal conduct both on and off duty with their subordinates. A special emphasis should be placed on safe consumption of alcohol, drinking and driving and distracted driving.

Safety is everyone's responsibility and we must increase awareness and remain vigilant in our efforts to reduce accidents. Keep up the engaged leadership as we transition into the summer season.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!

Pacific Victors!

RICHARD E. MERRITT  
CSM, USA  
Command Sergeant Major

THOMAS S. VANDAL  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

***Fight Tonight!***