



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
1 GABRESKI DRIVE
SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, SC 29152-5202

ACCG

24 May 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR United States Army Central (USARCENT) Personnel

SUBJECT: Spring/Summer Safety Message

1. Soldiers and Families across our Army are preparing for the rapidly approaching warmer weather. Whether it's operational activities in the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) Area of Operations (AOR), or getting the motorcycle ready for riding season, spring and summer offer abundant opportunities for rest and relaxation. That fun can come with a price, however, and Leaders and Soldiers should stay especially aware of the risks inherent to the change of seasons. There's a corresponding increase in fatal Army accidents. Leaders at all levels must ensure our personnel are equipped to recognize the risks and then identify and implement effective mitigation measures.

2. This spring/summer season it is incumbent upon leaders at all levels to ensure all USARCENT personnel are equipped to make smart decisions, and incorporate Risk Management in their daily activities to reduce the likelihood of accidents involving injuries, fatalities, and property loss.

a. Weather. USARCENT deployed Soldiers and Civilians must be mindful that with the advent of spring/summer will also come rising temperatures which pose a significant risk for heat injuries. Despite the Army's best efforts, the incidence of heat-related illnesses has remained stable. Over the past five years, more than 200 Soldiers have been hospitalized due to heat stroke each year, and over 1,000 additional Soldiers have been hospitalized for other heat illnesses. With this in mind, we must ensure that heat illness and injury prevention procedures are incorporated into planning as risk mitigation measures.

b. Fatigue. Fatigue is another persistent risk, and with increased operational tempo, personnel will become increasingly susceptible to its effects. Leaders must ensure that proper work/rest cycles and effective rest plans are being implemented and monitored.

c. Traffic/Vehicle Operation. Vehicle operators need to remain alert at all times, adjusting speeds to take into account changes in weather, road surface, operational conditions, or inattentive civilian drivers. Vehicle commanders must lead by example and properly supervise the operator and all occupants to ensure all personnel utilize vehicle restraints, personal protective equipment, and exercise proper discipline.

ACCG
SUBJECT: Spring/Summer Safety Message

Privately Owned Vehicles (POV) and motorcycle accidents continue to be the leading cause of accidents and fatalities throughout the year. The Army Traffic Safety Training Program courses available at all Army installations and tools such as the Commander's POV Toolbox and the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) are available on the CR/SC website for tools and managing risk through training and reinforcement of safe behaviors.

d. Sports/Recreational Activities. As Soldiers, civilians, and Family members at Shaw, take advantage of the upcoming spring break, Outdoor sports and recreational activities come with a level of risk, and the single greatest risk continues to be associated with recreational water activities. In the USCENTCOM AOR the greatest risk to USARCENT personnel continues to be sports injuries. All personnel, and especially leaders, should be aware of behaviors or conditions that increase the risk of exercise/sports related injuries and the training principles that can help prevent them. Ensure your risk mitigation efforts take these activities into account, regardless of AOR, and incorporate planning and training that is relevant and effective.

3. We continue to be committed to maintaining a proactive safety posture and it is our hope that as a team we can effectively manage and mitigate risks throughout our force, and keep all of our personnel safe. By working together and staying engaged, we can keep accidental fatalities from rising with the temperature these next few months. Thank you for your continued selfless commitment to our Nation and the USARCENT Team.

Third, Always First!

GARRETT.MICHAEL
L.XAVIER.1062399
771

Digitally signed by
GARRETT MICHAEL XAVIER.1062399771
DN: cn=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=OSD,
ou=PCL, email=USA,
c=US, email=GARRETT.MICHAEL.XAVIER.1062399771
Date: 2016.05.24 01:13:38 -0700

MICHAEL X. GARRETT
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding