DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
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FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCSM

18 AUG 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, MEDCOM Major Subordinate Commands
Directors, OTSG/MEDCOM OneStaff

SUBJECT: Labor Day Safety Message

1. Labor Day is an annual tribute to the contributions American workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our Nation. Labor Day also marks the traditional end of the summer season and a well-deserved holiday weekend.

2. As we enter the remaining month of this fiscal year, MEDCOM accidental fatalities remain at an all time high. We tragically lost 10 Soldiers in preventable off-duty accidents -- 10 members of our MEDCOM family. Unsafe operation of motorcycles and privately owned vehicles continues as the leading cause of accidental fatalities both Army and MEDCOM-wide.

3. Your personal leadership and engagement are vital in reversing this alarming trend of senseless fatalities. Leaders at all levels should identify the "at risk" population and use all available resources to increase safety awareness and educate our Soldiers and Civilians on the application of risk management in their off-duty activities. Leadership involvement at all levels is the most important and effective component of our accident prevention efforts.

4. The US Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center provides many tools to assist Leaders, Soldiers, Civilians and Families with valuable risk mitigation information to help prepare for off-duty and recreational activities. An extensive collection of tools, resources and safety tips can be found on the Safety Center's website at https://safety.army.mil/ and clicking on the icon, Safe Summer 2011, at the bottom left.

5. Thank you for all your efforts this summer and your continued help in protecting our most vital resource, our people, both on and off-duty. Enjoy a safe Labor Day weekend.

Army Medicine: Bringing Value, Inspiring Trust.

ERIC B. SCHOOMAKER
Lieutenant General
The Surgeon General and
Commanding General, USAMEDCOM