



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2748 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCSM

04 OCT 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR

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

SUBJECT: Columbus Day Safety

1. As we prepare to celebrate this Columbus Day, I salute all the men and women in uniform as well as our civilian and contract employees who proudly serve and protect the United States. Columbus Day is the first holiday weekend of the new fiscal year; let us do all we can to begin the new fiscal year without accidents, serious injuries, or loss of life.

2. Over the long holiday weekend, many will be traveling longer distances with shortened periods of daylight. The holiday weekend also brings increased risks for automobile and recreational accidents. I ask that you keep safety in mind at whatever activity you decide to engage in. I remind everyone to buckle up and not to operate your vehicle if you are fatigued or have been drinking. Commanders and supervisors, ensure your personnel are aware of safety hazards normally associated with the conditions of the changing fall season. Also, prepare your staff for winter risks and hazards by utilizing the 2011 Fall/Winter Safety Campaign available on the US Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center website at: <https://safety.army.mil> under the Fall/Winter Safety Campaign icon.

3. We finished this fiscal year with 13 fatal accidents, 9 more than last year. Most of these fatalities were the result of off-duty privately owned vehicle and motorcycle accidents. These accidents were avoidable and were a result of inattention and poor discipline. I ask leaders to be mindful of these statistics and increase your focus on off-duty vehicle operations, both motorcycle and privately-owned vehicles, to bring down this alarming increase in off-duty fatalities.

4. As you enjoy the Columbus Day weekend I would like to personally thank you for your service. Our Nation is very grateful for the sacrifices both you and your Families make every day for the Army medical team and this great country. Have a safe and enjoyable Columbus Day holiday.

Army Medicine: Bringing Value...Inspiring Trust!


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