



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MCSM

**08 FEB 2013**

**MEMORANDUM FOR**

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

**SUBJECT: Presidents' Day Holiday Safety Message**

1. The national holiday, Presidents' Day, was originally a commemoration of George Washington's birthday. America's first president was born on February 22, 1732. After Washington's death, our Nation began celebrating his birthday as a way to remember his life and his contributions to establishing America's independence. The shift from Washington's Birthday to Presidents' Day occurred in the late 1960s when Congress proposed a measure known as the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. As we honor our leaders past and present this holiday weekend, take a few minutes to remember your personal role in ensuring that our hard won freedoms are preserved for successive generations of individuals privileged to be called Americans. As part of our ongoing, deliberate safety campaign this holiday weekend take a few minutes and evaluate your preparedness in the event of localized or widespread flooding.

2. Retreating winter snow accumulations predictably lead to alluvial plain flooding and not surprisingly, flooding is the most common natural disaster and can occur anywhere. Generally, floods can develop over a period of days, giving you adequate time to prepare; however, flash floods can develop in a matter of minutes. Flash flood waters can be caused by heavy rain, levee breaches or structural failures. Rushing flood waters can be deeper and stronger than they appear. These torrential waters are destructive and can carry debris, rocks and mud. Everyone must be prepared for potential flooding by staying informed. Flood terminology and basic flood preparedness items can be found at <http://www.ready.gov/floods>. I encourage you to take a moment and learn how you can be better prepared. In the words of Louis Pastuer "chance favors the prepared mind"- so make the necessary preparations to ensure the safety of your loved ones.

3. CSM Brock and I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Presidents' Day Holiday weekend. As valued team members of the Army Medicine Family, savor this well earned holiday respite and remember - Army Safe is Army Strong.

**Army Medicine: Serving to Heal...Honored to Serve.**

  
PATRICIA D. HOROHO  
Lieutenant General  
The Surgeon General and  
Commanding General, USAMEDCOM