



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2748 WORTH ROAD
JBSA FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

MCSM

OCT 05 2016

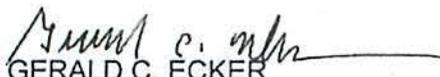
MEMORANDUM FOR

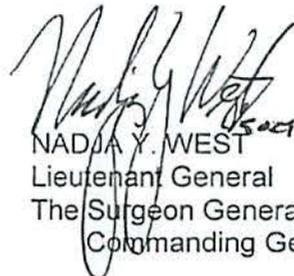
Commanders, MEDCOM Major Subordinate Commands
Directors, OTSG/MEDCOM OneStaff

SUBJECT: Columbus Day Safety Message

1. Columbus Day commemorates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the American continent on 12 October 1492. Great courage, perseverance, and dedication were required of those who sailed on this voyage. These same qualities have helped America become an icon of freedom and opportunity, and are demonstrated every day by the men and women of our Armed Forces as they defend our Nation.
2. Columbus Day is the first holiday weekend of the fall season. The cooler temperatures are accompanied by many different safety risks. Hours of daylight get shorter, so trips should be planned to minimize travel in darkness. The Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) should be used to reduce risk while traveling. TRiPS is available at the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center website: <https://safety.army.mil>. Also available on the website is the seasonal safety campaign, "Ready or Not." It includes information about increased hazards associated with the fall season and provides safety information for accident prevention that applies year-round.
3. In preparation for the holiday weekend, leaders are charged to ensure that their staff members receive meaningful safety briefings on the hazards associated with their planned activities. Emphasize the hazards of highway travel, outdoor activities, seatbelt usage, drinking and driving, and looking out for your battle-buddy. Encourage members of your organization to practice risk management and personal responsibility, and remind them that they and their Families are Army Medicine's most valued resource.
4. I challenge each of you to place safety at the top of your holiday plans and make the "right" decision in whatever you do. Remain vigilant – if you see something – say something. Have a safe and happy Columbus Day weekend. Army Safe is Army Strong.

One Team... One Purpose
Conserving the Fighting Strength!


GERALD C. ECKER
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major, USAMEDCOM


NADIA Y. WEST
Lieutenant General
The Surgeon General and
Commanding General, USAMEDCOM