



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

MCSM

17 NOV 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR

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

SUBJECT: Thanksgiving Safety Message

1. The Thanksgiving holiday is a time to give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us. It is a time when communities, family, and friends can come together and focus on managing the risks associated with the holiday weekend, especially off-duty vehicle operations.
2. Thanksgiving weekend is the most traveled weekend of the year with millions of Americans on our roadways – plan accordingly to reduce your risk. Late night weekend travel presents one of the highest risk factors, particularly when fatigue or alcohol is involved. Every year, senseless injuries occur as a result of speeding, unsafe vehicles, overindulgence in alcohol, and inattention. I ask you to increase your focus on off-duty vehicle operations, especially distracted driving. Driver inattention is a leading cause of traffic accidents nationwide, responsible for about 80 percent of all collisions, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Considering vehicle accidents are the number one cause of accidental death of our Soldiers, it is important to pay close attention to our driving habits and those of other drivers. The number one source of inattention and distracted driving is cell phone use. Foster a culture that limits phone conversations while driving and makes texting unacceptable.
3. The US Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center has developed tools to assist Leaders, Soldiers and civilians in developing drivers' safety programs. The Risk Management Toolbox features best practice examples, mandatory requirements, and lessons learned throughout the Army and Department of Defense. The Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) is an automated trip planning tool that incorporates the principles of Composite Risk Management and facilitates a dialogue between supervisors and their subordinates prior to privately-owned vehicle travel. Now TRiPS provides both subordinates and supervisors with the ability to write comments on an assessment. Use it to convey something your assessment could not capture. Access both the toolbox and TRiPS at: <https://safety.army.mil/povmotorcyclesafety/>.

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4. As we take time off from work, remember not to take time off from safety. I thank you for your unselfish support to our Soldiers, military Families, and the Army Medicine mission. To you and your family, I extend my best wishes for a safe and joyous Thanksgiving holiday.

Army Medicine: Bringing Value...Inspiring Trust!



ERIC B. SCHOOMAKER

Lieutenant General

The Surgeon General and

Commanding General, USAMEDCOM