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

SUBJECT: Thanksgiving Day Safety Message

1. In 1621, the Plymouth Colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. Thanksgiving is a joyous tradition that allows us to reflect on the good fortune we have as Americans and to recognize the many blessings we have received throughout the years.

2. Thanksgiving weekend is one of the busiest travel times of the year. Crowded roads and potentially adverse weather have made this long weekend one of the most dangerous in terms of traffic accidents. It is essential that leaders ensure our Soldiers, Civilians and their Families are aware of the potential dangers that come with Thanksgiving holiday travel and that they take steps to mitigate them. We must prepare our Soldiers to assess the risks of their weekend plans regarding both travel and activities. Leaders should review the safety resources on the Combat Readiness/Safety Center website, https://safety.army.mil, under the "Ready or Not" and determine which ones are best suited to support their holiday safety efforts. I expect our leaders to remind subordinates about accident factors such as speed, alcohol, driving fatigued or distracted (cell phones and texting), adverse weather conditions, seatbelt use, and compliance with motorcycle safety policy. Specifically, Soldiers should be informed regarding turkey fryer safety and they should be encouraged to look out for their battle-buddies. Soldiers must complete a TRIPS report prior to going on leave/pass/TDY. My expectation is for leaders to critically assess their Soldiers' travel plans to ensure sufficient time is taken to cover the intended travel distance. This will help eliminate fatigued driving and speeding. Traffic accidents are unnecessary and can negatively impact readiness, morale and mission accomplishment. And, as always, stay vigilant – if you see something – say something!

3. I salute the MEDCOM workforce for your service to our Nation; your dedicated service makes it possible to enjoy these holidays and enables Army's readiness today and tomorrow. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Army Safe is Army Strong.

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

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

NADJA Y. WEST
Lieutenant General, US Army
The Surgeon General and Commanding General, USAMEDCOM