MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, MEDCOM Major Subordinate Commands
Deputy Chiefs of Staff, OTSG/MEDCOM OneStaff
Directors, OTSG/MEDCOM OneStaff

SUBJECT: Memorial Day Safety Message

1. Memorial Day is an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. We encourage you to pause for a moment to remember those American Soldiers who performed heroically in combat and gave their lives in service to our great nation. We owe these Soldiers a debt of gratitude for the freedoms their sacrifices have provided as we continue to protect our Nation.

2. As we reflect this Memorial Day and transition from spring to summer, many of us will seek outdoor activities that bring associated risks. Commanders and leaders play a critical role in the prevention of avoidable accidents, loss of life and damage to property. Traffic accidents are unfortunate and can negatively impact readiness, morale and our ability to perform our mission efficiently and effectively. We expect our leaders to talk with 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. Watch out for your battle-buddy and stay vigilant – if you see something, say something!

3. On Memorial day, it is important to not only recognize the service of those who have gone before us, but to also ensure that the purpose for which they fought will never be forgotten. Please enjoy the holiday weekend in remembrance of all of our fallen comrades. Have a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend! Army Safe is Army Strong.

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

MICHAEL L. GRAGG
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major, USAMEDCOM

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