



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND  
1777 HARDEE AVENUE SW  
FORT MCPHERSON GA 30330-1062

AFPE-SO

JUN 16 2004

**MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, All FORSCOM Troop Units**

**SUBJECT: Independence Day 2004 Safety Message**

- 1. The Independence Day holiday marks the 228th birthday of our nation. Traditionally, this is a time of celebration for our soldiers and their families. Unfortunately, this holiday has too often ended in tragedy due to a preventable accident. It is our duty to set the conditions for ourselves and for those for whom we are responsible.**
- 2. Since the holiday period brings increased traffic volume, every soldier, civilian work force member, or family member must focus on traffic safety. Over half of US Army Forces Command's (FORSCOMs) annual accidental fatalities involve privately owned automobiles and motorcycles. Nearly all of them are preventable.**
- 3. Leaders arguably play a most critical role in safety by conducting risk assessments for each soldier planning to travel over the holidays. An excellent risk assessment tool for privately owned vehicle travel is available at <https://safety.army.mil/asmis1/>. Meaningful safety briefings will encourage soldiers to use good judgment on and off-duty. Challenge soldiers to Stop, Think, Observe, Plan, and then Proceed with Safety.**
- 4. In addition to travel, many activities that soldiers and their families will undertake over the holiday weekend will expose them to risk: sports, boating, swimming, hiking, fireworks, and cookouts. Maintaining focus on safety and knowing the risks and hazards associated with those activities is essential. Keeping America's Army family safe is our priority. Integrate risk management into every activity you undertake throughout the holiday.**
- 5. My family and I wish you, your families, and friends, a safe and pleasant Independence Day.**

**DAN K. MCNEILL**  
General, USA  
Commanding