



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZF-GA-SAFE

5 May 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR Major Subordinate Commanders

SUBJECT: Memorial Day Safety Message

1. On Memorial Day, we remember and honor fellow Americans, service men and women, who made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down their lives in the name of freedom. This year, we will also remember and recognize the many soldiers deployed all over the world, serving our Nation, ready to make the same sacrifice as those before them. Our deployed III Corps soldiers are proudly carrying on this rich tradition of securing liberty and freedom in nations around the globe. They consistently reflect our values and exhibit the highest principles of patriotism and service to our Nation. I thank you, your soldiers, and your families for all you do for our Army and our great Nation. I encourage everybody to celebrate the proud heritage of Memorial Day and enjoy the 4-day weekend.
2. This Memorial Day weekend traditionally signals the beginning of summer. Effective safety preparation for the upcoming holiday weekend sets the safety tone for the rest of the summer. Prior to releasing their soldiers for the long weekend, I want leaders to adequately prepare them to safely enjoy the warm weather activities. This preparation includes recreational water and other outdoors activities, and extended privately owned vehicle (POV) travel. Leaders must remain personally involved in their soldiers' off-duty activities and provide workable control measures for potentially unsafe activities that their soldiers have planned.
3. As you know, we have been experiencing an adverse trend in POV fatalities so far in this fiscal year. For that reason, leaders must place special emphasis on POV accident *prevention efforts during pre-holiday safety briefings*. The POV safety topics to focus on are the value of seat belts, to drive at a safe and reasonable speed, not to drink and drive, not to drive while being fatigued, and safe motorcycle operations and required protective gear. Additionally, soldiers must be briefed on preventive measures for heat stress and swimming and boating accidents. Leaders must stay engaged 100% in their soldiers' holiday plans in order to preserve our most valuable resource - our soldiers.
4. As we celebrate Memorial Day, please remember and honor the courageous men and women who sacrificed their lives for the ideals that make this country great. Enjoy a safe holiday weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. Metz".

THOMAS F. METZ
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding