MEMORANDUM FOR Directors and Support Office Chiefs/Managers

SUBJECT: Safety Policy

1. I am the Safety Officer for the Garrison. I expect every director, support office chief, and leader to be a Safety Officer and take personal responsibility for the safety of employees entrusted to their care.

2. Accident prevention in this Garrison is based on the philosophy that all accidents can be prevented, and that accident prevention is an inherent function of leadership and discipline. The employees of this Garrison must be so thoroughly trained in safety principles and procedures that safety awareness is a part of their thought process, both on and off duty. Disciplined organizations operate to standards because it is the right thing to do and they do not take short cuts. As a result, they conduct safe, well thought out operations from start to finish. Leaders must nurture and enforce discipline – guarding against complacency and short cuts.

3. At times, we are faced with accomplishing tough missions in challenging environments. During operations, leaders at each level manage risk and assure that our employees conduct all activities safely. We must remember that “Nothing” we do in peacetime is so important as to cost the life of an employee. Therefore, safety will be foremost in our minds as we develop plans, and issue orders during operations. Every operation will have a Risk Assessment completed, determine how risks will be managed, and will be approved at the appropriate level.

4. The safety policy of this Garrison is to achieve “Safety Through Thorough Operating Procedures” (STTOP). We will not use safety as an excuse for avoiding difficult and challenging support missions. We will not accept unsatisfactory support levels. Instead, we will use safety to enhance rather than undermine effectiveness. We will achieve this by ensuring leaders fully understand the capabilities and limitations of our equipment, as well as specific safety procedures. We will ensure that we prepare support operations so thoroughly and intelligently planned that we avoid adhoc planning, which so often leads to the individual employee having to make the choice between ineffective or “safe.” Using a thoroughly thought out support plan, and the maintenance of a constantly disciplined environment for our employees, we can eliminate needless risk. When safety is in doubt, cease operations and consult your chain of command/leadership.

WILLIAM V. HILL III
COL, AR
Commanding