



19 December 2015

## Winter Holiday Safety Awareness

Happy Holidays to our Soldiers, Civilians, Families and friends. We want to thank you for your steady focus on both your individual and our collective readiness, and for your dedicated service the past year.

Some of our Soldiers are spending their first holiday season away from their loved ones. Reach out to our fellow team members and help them feel closer to home with their Army family. Encourage the use of the buddy system and make sure all of our unaccompanied personnel are aware of the opportunities available to them.

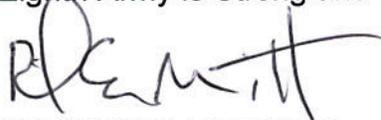
As we take time to celebrate the holidays, continue to make safety a priority both on and off duty. We encourage you to take advantage of what Korea has to offer. If you decide to explore the rich culture of Korea, always remember to place safety first. While Korea offers many exciting experiences, the unfamiliarity of a foreign country may result in challenging situations

Unfortunately, the excessive use of alcohol and overindulgence are two of the most common recurring issues during this period. If you or someone you know is having a difficult time coping, don't hesitate to ask for help, regardless of the challenge. It demonstrates strength of character to confront these issues head-on and can prevent an incident from arising before it's too late.

For those of you planning to travel abroad during your time off, speak to your local safety office to review foreign travel advisories and maintain situational awareness at all times throughout your trip. For additional tools to help you plan your trip safely visit the Army Safety Center's Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) at [https://trips.safety.army.mil/ako\\_auth/TRIPS/default.aspx](https://trips.safety.army.mil/ako_auth/TRIPS/default.aspx).

We are proud of everything we have accomplished as a team this past year and are looking forward to continue that same level of commitment. Enjoy your time off, have a safe and joyous New Year, and come back refreshed and ready to carry on our enduring legacy of service in this very important corner of the world.

Eighth Army is Strong and Getting Stronger!

  
RICHARD E. MERRITT  
CSM, USA  
Command Sergeant Major

  
BERNARD S. CHAMPOUX  
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Commanding

