



26 May 2016

## Memorial Day Safety Message

1. On Memorial Day, we honor those men and women who have given the "last full measure" in the defense of our Nation. By remembering these fallen heroes, we honor them, their values and what they represent as American Service members.
2. As we pause to remember these heroes with parades, ceremonies, barbeques and family gatherings, we also start the summer season where many of our personnel will take advantage of the warm weather to enjoy travel and outdoor recreation. I encourage everyone to enjoy your time with family and friends, but do so with safety in mind.
3. The keys to a safe holiday weekend are engaged leaders, situational awareness, discipline, and teamwork. Leaders at all levels must discuss with their Soldiers and Civilians the hazards associated with the summer season. Lessons learned from the previous years suggest that sports related injuries pose the greatest risk to our Soldiers. We can reduce sports injuries by enforcing safety measures, (i.e. using sport officials, wearing correct equipment, and warming up properly).
4. Prior planning and awareness of potential hazards are the keys to accident prevention. Each of us must take responsibility for our own actions and incorporate Risk Management into our plans and activities. Whatever your plans, manage your risks to have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend. Thanks for your service to our Nation.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!

Pacific Victors!

RICHARD E. MERRITT  
CSM, USA  
Command Sergeant Major

THOMAS S. VANDAL  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding