



Independence Day Safety Message

1. Two-hundred and forty years ago our Nation declared its independence and gave birth to a new era of democracy. Since that time, the United States has become a symbol of freedom throughout the world, including right here in the Republic of Korea. As we come together this Fourth of July in the enduring spirit of America, let us be grateful for the blessings that freedom represent and for the opportunities it affords.
2. Many of you will take advantage of the long weekend to travel around South Korea with family and friends. Take time to visit the Army's Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) at <https://trips.safety.army.mil/> before you depart to plan out the details of your trip and assess and mitigate potential hazards.
3. The holiday weekend coincides with the arrival of monsoon season here on the Korean Peninsula. The severity of these violent fluctuations in the weather can bring torrential rains, flash floods, and mudslides. Be mindful of rapidly changing weather conditions and make sure you have a plan in place to get to a safe location.
4. Leaders at all levels will counsel their subordinates prior to releasing them for the weekend. Place special emphasis on safe consumption of alcohol, proper use of safety equipment (seat belts, personal flotation devices, motorcycle safety gear, etc.), and prevention of heat injury and illness.
5. Most of all, enjoy the holiday weekend and celebrate the birth of our Nation with great pride. As long as everyone uses common sense and makes sound decisions, we will all return refreshed and ready to continue our enduring legacy of service here on Freedom's Frontier.

Pacific Victors!

THOMAS S. VANDAL
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding