



4 September 2017

Labor Day Safety Message

On September 4th, we will celebrate Labor Day in honor of all Americans who work hard to build and sustain our great nation. Labor Day weekend occurs at the end of a major training exercise and marks the end of summer; a period historically associated with increased mishaps. Over this holiday weekend we should all take a well-deserved break to relax and recharge. At the same time, we must remain vigilant and incorporate risk management into every decision.

Risk management is a Leader responsibility. As we close out Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG), establishing a deliberate recovery process is essential to our safety and success. We must remain cognitive of our surroundings as we transition out of a tactical mindset and environment. Post exercise data indicates an increase in misconduct and alcohol related incidents. Indiscipline can spoil what should be an enjoyable time so we must work together to keep everyone safe and focus on readiness.

Leaders at all levels must stay engaged, maintain situational awareness and discuss appropriate personal conduct both on and off duty with their subordinates. A special emphasis should be placed on safe consumption of alcohol, drinking and driving, distracted driving and the use of caution in sports and recreational activities. Respect yourselves and those around you; know your limits and know when to stop. Incorporate a buddy system; we have a shared responsibility to look out for one another.

As we transition into the fall season we must focus on safety and continue our efforts towards accident prevention. Thank you for your hard work and tireless support of our mission here in the Republic of Korea.

Pacific Victors!

RICHARD E. MERRITT
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

THOMAS S. VANDAL
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

Fight Tonight!