



Memorial Day Weekend Safety

USAREUR Training Holiday Weekend, 22 – 25 May 2015

Team 21, Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was established as a time for the Nation to decorate the graves of those killed during the American Civil War. After World War I, the day was expanded to honor all men and women who died in military service for the United States and in 1971, Memorial Day became a Federal holiday. This year, Memorial Day falls on “Whit Monday”, which is also a German holiday.

This time of year, many of us begin to enjoy the warm weather and much deserved down time. Let’s keep in mind that historically, the next few months are the deadliest time of the year for off-duty Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members. Even small mistakes can result in tragedies. Please take a moment to review the following keys to accident prevention.

**Don’t Drink and Drive.** Appoint a designated driver, or, if no one is available and you’ve been drinking, take a cab or call a buddy!

**Make Smart Decisions.** Lack of discipline and complacency can be our greatest enemies. Always buckle up when you’re in a vehicle and keep in mind that defensive driving can be your best compensation for error – both for yourself and others. Remember to use common sense!

**Be Safe Around Water.** Bear in mind that alcohol consumption and water activities can be a deadly mix. Never swim alone or in unauthorized areas.

**Be Ready-Strong.** Watch out for yourself, your Family, and friends, and always use your individual professionalism **VE3ST!** Values; Enthusiasm-Endurance-Excellence; Stewardship; and Teamwork.

**Enjoy the Weekend.** Don’t let a preventable accident ruin it. Be smart – be safe!

FIRST IN SUPPORT-READY STRONG!

THANKS FOR YOUR  
SELFLESS SERVICE, BE  
SAFE THIS WEEKEND, AND  
REMEMBER OUR FALLEN!  
HOORAH O.O!

JOHN R. O’CONNOR  
Major General, USA  
Commanding