HOLIDAY SAFETY

21st Theater Sustainment Command

Training Holiday Weekend Safety

USAREUR Training Holiday Weekend, 13 – 16 March 2015

Team 21, the upcoming training holiday weekend provides an opportunity to travel and spend quality time with Family and friends. Tuesday, 17 March is St. Patrick's Day – resulting in parades and festivals throughout the long weekend. Let's look out for each other, use common sense, and make safety our top priority while we are having fun. Please note the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center's article "READY... OR NOT?" and review the safety reminders below - don't let an accident spoil a memorable weekend!

Be Safe. Make safety your top priority while celebrating, traveling, or relaxing during the training holiday weekend.

Drive Safely. Drive at safe speeds. Reduce your speed, always wear seat belts and drive defensively. Remember, you don't have to be at fault to be injured or killed in an accident! Don't Drink and Drive!!!

Exercise Moderation. If you go out to party, have a plan to get home safely. Don't consume excessive amounts of alcohol. Use 0-1-2-3 drinking guidelines: 0 drinks for drivers or those under 21; 1 drink per hour; no more than 2 drinks per day; 3 or more drinks per day affect your health.

Stay Ready. Watch out for yourself, Family, friends, and buddies, and always use your individual professionalism **VE3ST! V**alues; **E**nthusiasm-**E**ndurance-**E**xcellence; **S**tewardship; and **T**eamwork. Intervene on negative behaviors; be sharp ready-strong-professionals. We must maintain our readiness to ensure we can stay "Army Strong - Strong Europe".

FIRST IN SUPPORT-READY STRONG!

Get Ready For Spring with Moderation! Blow off Some Steam with Safe Fun and Family Ok!

JOHN R. O'CONNOR
Major General, USA
Commanding

07-15

READY ...OR NOT?

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What happens to leadership off duty?

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"When a division commander says his biggest fear for Soldiers' safety wasn't sending them outside the wire in Afghanistan, but giving them a weekend pass in garrison, it's clear that there is important work to do." — Secretary of the Army John McHugh

Ripped straight from the headlines, another Soldier is killed in a motorcycle accident and leaves behind a wife and four young children.

Law enforcement officials on the scene reported the Soldier, a 33-year-old combat veteran with six deployments under his belt, had failed to negotiate a curve, lost control of his bike and crashed into a tree.

This was only his second week back home following a yearlong stint in Afghanistan.

By all accounts, unit leaders regarded him as an outstanding Soldier, a noncommissioned officer they could depend on to get the mission done. They trusted his judgment and were stunned to hear of his death.

According to U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center statistics, the Soldier was the sixth off-duty fatality reported early into fiscal year 2015, which began Oct. 1. This is a 100 percent increase over the three off-duty fatalities reported for the same period last year.

"It's a dangerous trend that raises concern at all levels," said Command Sgt. Maj. Leeford C. Cain, command sergeant major, USACRC. "The death of even one Soldier is tragic, but it's especially heartrending when you learn the Soldier was a combat veteran with a young family to support.

"We have to do better," he added. "That particular Soldier had been home only 11 days after completing his sixth war zone deployment. He was a highly decorated and dedicated noncommissioned officer who had a promising military career ahead of him."

Soldiers exercising at-risk behavior or failing to practice safety protocols have prompted Army officials to develop specific programs and strategies designed to help identify and prevent future fatalities. One such initiative is the Soldier Leader Risk Reduction Tool.

The SLRRT is a series of open-ended questions that focus on the physical, emotional/behavioral, occupational, social/interpersonal, financial and legal/disciplinary aspects of the Soldier. The Soldier's responses assist leaders in forming a more comprehensive picture of the individual outside installation boundaries.

Coupled with personal observations, reliable reporting sources and past counseling sessions, the SLRRT can be an indispensable resource that helps leaders manage and mitigate risk factors such as financial, legal, family/relationship, alcohol or other issues, Cain said. Through the SLRRT, leaders can learn of the Soldier's dilemma and guide or direct him or her to the appropriate support channels.

Despite its intrinsic value, the SLRRT is a counseling tool and leaders are prohibited from using it to collect and retain data on Soldiers. Any pertinent information about the Soldier should instead be documented on DA Form 4856, Developmental Counseling Form, in accordance with Army Regulation 623-3 and Field Manual 6-22, appendix B (Counseling).

"The SLRRT is invaluable in helping leaders better understand their Soldiers," Cain said. "How can one expect to take care of Soldiers without really knowing what issues or concerns motivate their actions, good or bad?"

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III echoed those sentiments during the Best Warrior Competition held Oct. 6-9 at Fort Lee, Virginia.

"You should be looking out for the welfare of your battle buddy, both on and off duty," Chandler said. "You should be committed to them, willing to do what is necessary to ensure their well-being."

Cain said, "As leaders, we want to understand what makes the Soldier take those unnecessary risks and determine how we can help that individual refocus. Why does he choose to drink and drive or refuse to wear his seat belt? These are all questions we need to ask."

The SLRRT is also a perfect engagement tool, according to Cain.

"Use the SLRRT to really talk with the Soldier. Get to know them. Build that trust," he said. "It's our responsibility as leaders. Not only are we tasked to ensure Soldiers are technically and tactically proficient to perform their job and mission, but we also have that responsibility for their health and well-being.

"Losing a Soldier because we failed to identify and correct an issue only leaves us with a hole in our formation and an empty chair at the dinner table, and reduces our unit's effectiveness to execute the mission," he added. "Soldiers in our ranks today have already sacrificed so much for our nation's defense. They're our American heroes and we each should do all we can to make sure they can and do continue to serve. Not only because the Army has invested a great deal to train them, but because others, including their fellow Soldiers and families, depend on them as well."

For more information on the SLRRT, visit https://safety.army.mil.

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