



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER AND FORT IRWIN  
FORT IRWIN, CA 92310-5000

AFZJ-CG

1 October 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: National Training Center and Fort Irwin Columbus Day Safety Message

1. Columbus Day is a distinctive American holiday acknowledging those who shaped the destiny of the New World. Although many will be working, some may get the opportunity to set out on their own "voyages" as they travel or take part in recreational activities. I charge leaders and supervisors to ensure all personnel are briefed on proper safety and accident prevention procedures prior to Columbus Day weekend.
2. Across the Army, off-duty fatalities out number on-duty fatalities by nearly 3-to-1. Motorcycle and sedan/truck accidents account for more than half of those off-duty fatalities. It is a sobering fact that NTC contributed to these numbers. One off duty motorcycle fatality and one off duty slip trip and fall injury that resulted in permanent partial disability.
3. This year, almost an entire company, (60 Soldiers) were lost to private motor vehicle accidents. The Columbus Day holiday is a great opportunity to take time to reflect on the increased hazards associated with the fall driving season. As days become shorter, limited visibility risks increase, be mindful of road hazards, potholes, bicyclists and pedestrians. While out jogging, cycling or riding a motorcycle, be sure to wear the proper protective clothing and reflective gear.
4. Every two years, the Army releases a new safety campaign intended to promote individual responsibility and engagement. The two-year safety campaign is entitled "Ready ... or Not?" It is designed to heighten awareness of risk factors by causing individuals and Leaders to ask themselves one simple question, "Are you and/or your organization ready for what is about to happen?" Visit the Army Safety Site to learn more <https://safety.army.mil>.
5. Thank you for what you do each and every day. You are a precious resource, without you our mission cannot be accomplished.

LEAD TRAIN WIN!



JOSEPH M. MARTIN  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

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