



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 32D ARMY AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND
111 SLATER ROAD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79916

AFVL-CG

5 January 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Martin Luther King Holiday Safety Message

1. On January 16th we will take time to remember and honor the ideals and sacrifices of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. Just as we hold firmly to our seven Army values, Dr. King peacefully advocated for the values of respect and equality for all, standing bravely against the hatred of ignorance, prejudice, and fear. His passionate efforts led the way for a better American society, one in which a person is judged based upon their individual merits and actions rather than upon their race or color of their skin. We ask that over this weekend you acknowledge his service to our country and do your part to keep this holiday accident and fatality free.
2. We want you to keep two things in mind as you take time away from work over this weekend. First, stay on alert for suicidal behavior and continuously look out for your battle buddy. Many people believe that most suicides occur in the period leading up to Christmas and New Year's holidays. In fact, statistics show that suicides are as frequent if not more likely in the months following those holidays heading into early spring. Don't let your guard down, continue to watch for signs of stress in your teammates, and if you need help, seek it out.
3. Secondly, use common sense in your activities this weekend. Individual indiscipline is the number one contributor to serious accidents and fatalities. Common sense means limiting travel to a reasonable distance and being responsible in the consumption of alcohol. Leaders must remain engaged and know their subordinates' plans and take action when those plans put Soldiers and Family members at risk. Engaged leaders who show they care through being involved in the activities of those under their charge can and do make a difference.
4. This holiday is often described as "a day on, not a day off" as a reminder of Dr. King's lifetime of service to others. As you enjoy your time off we encourage you to reflect on his service and seek out an opportunity to follow his example while being safe in all that you do.

SWIFT AND SURE!

JAMES N. ROSS
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

JOHN G. ROSSI
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: A