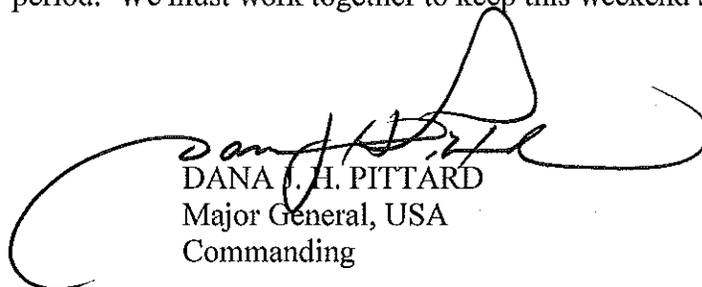


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Team Bliss Memorial Day Holiday Safety Guidance:

1. Memorial Day is a federal holiday commemorating and honoring our nation's fallen comrades. As Americans, we pause on Memorial Day to honor and pay respect to those fallen patriots who sacrificed their lives in defense of freedom. We must remember their valor, courage, selfless service and personal sacrifices.
2. The observance of Memorial Day is deeply-felt because we are a nation still at war and yet, it is still a time of year that signals the start of summer, travel, and outdoor recreational activities, all of which incur some amount of risk. Privately owned vehicle (POV) accidents continue to be the leading cause of preventable deaths across the Army. So far this fiscal year, one privately owned motorcycle (POM) accident has accounted for our only Team Bliss accidental fatality. Both POV and POM accidents across the Army are a direct result of excessive speed influenced by alcohol, overconfidence, and complacency. Other contributing factors include poor situational awareness, inattention, haste, fatigue, and inexperience. However, most vehicle accidents can be prevented with proactive leader engagement throughout the chain of command and self discipline on the part of drivers and operators.
3. The second leading cause of preventable deaths in the Army is drowning. Drowning incidents are usually caused by overconfidence, failure to use flotation devices, and inadequate parental supervision of children. Water safety can be enhanced with strict adherence to boating and swimming safety standards, use of proper safety equipment, and use of qualified lifeguards.
4. All preventable deaths negatively impact the Team Bliss readiness posture. Our goal has not changed; Team Bliss will not lose a Soldier, Civilian, or Family member due to a preventable death during this high-risk holiday period. We must work together to keep this weekend safe.



DANA J. H. PITTARD
Major General, USA
Commanding

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