



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

26 AUG 04

AFPE-SO

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, Major Subordinate Commands/Units
Reporting Directly to FORSCOM

SUBJECT: US Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) First Quarter, Fiscal Year
2005 Risk Assessment

1. Safety is a leadership imperative. Leaders at all levels must talk to their troops daily about safety and emphasize the importance of accident prevention and taking care of soldiers. We must instill in each soldier a sense of self-worth and an understanding of the unintended consequences of at-risk behavior on personal lives. Soldiers thus prepared can be expected to make sound risk decisions on and off duty. I expect this Risk Assessment to be the foundation for that effort.

a. Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) Operation. The trend on POV fatalities continues to go in the wrong direction. Privately owned vehicle accidents account for more soldier deaths than the combined total of all other causes. Leaders must continually educate, supervise, and intervene when needed to foster good driving habits and to eliminate at-risk behaviors.

b. Mobilization and Deployment. Repeat rotations, in-theater extensions and continuing mobilization and integration of Reserve Component units and augmentees make the upcoming quarter one of the greatest risk management challenges in recent history. Leaders must remain focused, maintain standards, anticipate hazards, and effectively establish controls to protect the force.

c. Redeployment and Reconstitution. Post-deployment accidents continue to be a major concern. We are experiencing the accident spike that has often followed major deployments. This cannot be accepted as a normal event. We must ensure that discipline is maintained throughout the redeployment and the subsequent reconstitution period. Leader engagement is the key.

d. Preventing Combat Casualties. Success in the Global War on Terrorism depends in large part on our ability to sustain combat power. Identifying and mitigating hazards before, during, and after combat operations is essential to that effort.

e. Weapons Handling. We have seen a reduction in the number of injuries resulting from negligent discharges in-theater. This is a welcome trend, the direct result of active leader engagement. We must strive to completely eliminate

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these needless accidents through better training and supervision. Do not relax; reinforce this success.

f. Training, Exercises, and Homeland Operations. We operate in a dynamic world with reactive adversaries. Our training must be equally dynamic, but must employ the unchanging principles of sound risk management. As FORSCOM deploys resources for Homeland Operations, safety programs must be a continuing part of all operations in all environments.

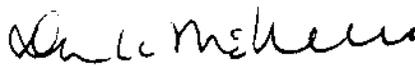
g. Modularity. Our transformation to a modular force has the potential to be extremely disruptive to unit cohesion. As new processes, procedures, and tactics are developed, hazards must be identified and addressed. This is a continuing process and all leaders must mitigate the inherent risks.

h. Aviation Safety. Military aviation operations are inherently hazardous, requiring extensive training, constant risk management, and strict adherence to proven procedures. Leaders must make the most of every training opportunity and mitigate the risks.

2. Leadership engagement is the key to effective risk management. All FORSCOM leaders must speak to their soldiers frequently, with consistent themes to remind them of the unintended effects of high-risk behavior on themselves, comrades and loved ones. At the training site, in the field, from the barracks steps at recall formations: the leader's focus and concern must be unmistakable. All leaders must accept the challenge posed by the Army's "Be Safe!" Campaign. We must work together to dramatically reduce accidents and to prevent the needless deaths and injuries to the brave soldiers we are privileged to lead.

3. For additional information, contact Major Burton at 404-464-7199.

Encl



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General, US Army
Commanding