



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, FORT HOOD
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FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZF-GA

29 SEP 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS

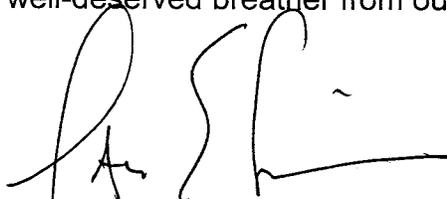
SUBJECT: Columbus Day Safety Message

1. During the upcoming Columbus Day weekend, we celebrate the discovery of the Americas by a great explorer – Christopher Columbus. Born in Genoa, Italy in 1451, he had a life-long ambition - to reach the fabled wealth of the East. Curiosity about his belief that the world was round, combined with persistence, finally brought Columbus the answer to his dreams in 1492. The Queen of Spain financed for Columbus a voyage to find a shorter route to the Far East. On 12 October 1492, the 36th day at sea, the crew sighted land by moonlight. Believing they were in the vicinity of Japan, Columbus had instead discovered an unknown world - America. Today, Americans celebrate this holiday with ceremonies and parades befitting the anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. We in the military celebrate the holiday by taking time out from our busy schedules to enjoy the long weekend with family and friends.
2. In order for our Soldiers to safely enjoy their off-duty holiday activities, leaders have to continue to get involved and conduct effective risk assessments keyed to their Soldiers' weekend plans. The 96 non-stop off-duty hours of the upcoming Columbus Day Holiday long weekend present a special challenge for leaders to ensure the safety of their Soldiers. Leaders should make it a point to know their Soldiers' off-duty plans and offer safety advice where warranted. Special attention should be given to Soldiers planning to take long trips for the weekend. As required by the new Army Safety Campaign Plan, prior to Soldiers going on leave, pass, TDY, or PCS, they must complete the POV automated risk assessment found at the Army Safety Center's web site (<http://safety.army.mil/home.html>) under "Tools," which links you to the ASMIS1 POV Risk Assessment Tool. First-line leaders, especially, must ensure this is accomplished.
3. Accident prevention is a continuous process that is driven by changing parameters and conditions. With the cooler/wetter fall weather, new adverse driving conditions and challenges crop up that require different risk assessments and controls than conditions in the summer. Fall weather can present slick roads and foggy driving conditions. These place extra demands on the driver's alertness and the vehicle's capability.

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During safety orientations, leaders should stress to their Soldiers ways to minimize these risks. With hunting season starting in many states now, leaders should stress to Soldiers who plan to hunt to review hunting safety tips prior to engaging in hunting activities. Risk management can save lives! Commanders/leaders can find resources for seasonal and POV safety briefings on the Fort Hood web site under "Safety," and at the Army Safety Center's website (mentioned above), which includes the Chief of Staff of the Army-recommended "POV TOOLBOX."

4. I hope that each of you enjoys a safe and happy Columbus Day holiday with family and friends. Please view the holiday as a well-deserved breather from our busy training/work schedules.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JES', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

JAMES E. SIMMONS
Major General, USA
Commanding