



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, FORT HOOD
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZF-CG

AUG 25 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR Major Subordinate Commanders

SUBJECT: Labor Day 2004 Safety Message

1. Over a century since Labor Unions and President Grover Cleveland brought about Labor Day, it continues to be celebrated across the nation. We in the military have good reasons to be proud when celebrating Labor Day activities. Over the years, the historic results of our military "labor" have complemented the hard work of the American labor force to make our great country what it is today. This hand-in-glove teamwork with America's worker has contributed to the greatest production the world has ever known.

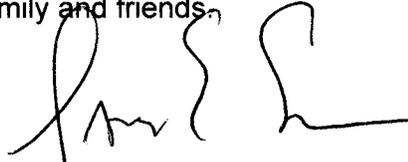
2. The upcoming long holiday weekend is the last one for the summer and is traditionally viewed as capping off the summer's activities. Many of us will probably travel to be with family and friends. With that in mind, I want to highlight the fact that privately owned vehicle (POV) accidents are still the number one reason Soldiers die or suffer injuries. So far in Fiscal Year 2004, we had five Fort Hood Soldiers die in POV accidents. Some common causative factors that are repeatedly identified for POV accidents and injuries are speed, fatigue, alcohol, loss of control, and not wearing seat belts and/or motorcycle safety gear. Noteworthy is that the last three Fort Hood POV fatalities involved motorcyclists. I urge commanders and leaders to double their efforts and identify their motorcycle riders and ensure that they have attended the mandatory motorcycle safety training, are properly registered on post, and wear the appropriate safety gear when riding motorcycles.

3. All of us should identify and mitigate hazards associated with any activity, whether driving, boating, or cooking in the backyard. Commanders/supervisors/leaders must ensure that Soldiers and Civilians are adequately briefed on accident preventive measures for POV operations and other seasonal activities prior to the long weekend. Junior leaders must get 100% engaged in risk assessment and ensure that the weekend activities of their Soldiers are planned out as safely as possible. Soldiers need to know that leaders care about their safety on-duty as well as off-duty.

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4. I'd like to thank the Soldiers and civilian workers of Fort Hood for their service to our installation and our nation. Each of you epitomizes the hard work and dedication of the centuries of American workers that came before you. I hope that each of you enjoys a happy and safe Labor Day holiday with family and friends.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James E. Simmons', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JAMES E. SIMMONS
Major General, USA
Commanding