



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZF-CG

AUG 19 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Labor Day 2009 Safety Message

1. Over a century ago, Labor Day was celebrated for the first time to recognize the hard work of individuals within the trade and labor organizations. Since then, it has become a National holiday celebrated across the country. As members of the Military, we have good reason to be especially proud of the work we do every day, and we also need to take time from our busy schedules to relax and have fun.

2. As the final long weekend of summer approaches, we must do all that we can to make this a safe one. Five Phantom Warriors have lost their lives to needless accidents since 12 July (3-motorcycles; 1-POV; and 1-drowning). Some of these Soldiers returned from deployments in combat zones only to die here in the United States. The Labor Day holiday is a time to enjoy the long weekend with Family and friends, not to mourn the loss of another Soldier. Speeding, driving while fatigued, and alcohol use all carry enormous risks that may endanger your chances of making it to your destination alive. Water recreational activities must also be well planned.

3. Commanders and first-line leaders must review the plans of every Soldier in their charge to make sure they have identified and mitigated the risks involved in their planned activities. First-line leaders must ensure Soldiers operating motorcycles have the required training, are licensed, and use the required protective equipment. I expect our leaders to take ownership of the challenge of preventing injury to our Soldiers and don't forget that Soldiers include all of our NCOs and officers as well. All Soldiers taking leave or on pass must complete the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) assessment tool and share these plans with their leader. The TRiPS and briefing materials can be found on the Combat Readiness/Safety Center web site at <https://safety.army.mil/>.

4. This will be my last holiday weekend as your Commander. Sarah and I would like to thank the Soldiers and civilian workers of III Corps for all they do for our Nation. God Bless the Phantom Corps and our great Army, and may God continue to bless America. Have a safe weekend with Family and friends, and enjoy your Labor Day.

PHANTOM WARRIORS!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Lynch", written over a large, faint, stylized graphic element.

RICK LYNCH
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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