

Be safe this Memorial day, all summer long

By Public Affairs Staff 24 May 2018



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY WAR COLLEGE AND CARLEILE BARRACKS
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI 65204-1500

CSWC

23 May 18

MEMORANDUM FOR All Carlisle Barracks Personnel

SUBJECT: 2018 Memorial Day Safety Message

1. Memorial Day, an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May, honors the men and women who have died while serving in the U.S. military. Many Americans observe the day by visiting memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. Unofficially, Memorial Day marks the beginning of the summer season.
2. On average, the Army loses the equivalent of a company-sized formation of soldiers to fatal off-duty accidents each year. Historically, this tragic loss of life occurs during warm weather months. Privately owned motor vehicle accidents, including motorcycles, account for approximately 88 percent of all fatal mishaps. These trends are not unique to the military. Early projections of 2017 traffic fatalities nationwide show that an estimated 37,150 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Hazard awareness and effective control implementation before and during off-duty activities can preserve the lives of our soldiers, civilians, and family members.
3. To increase hazard awareness, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center has released an updated off-duty safety awareness presentation that includes loss-prevention information on home safety, high-risk behaviors, fatigue management, and alcohol consumption. I strongly encourage all organizations to integrate these accident prevention efforts into their operations so this information can be taken home where it can truly make a difference. You can view the off-duty safety presentation at <https://safety.army.mil/COASAP>.
4. Engaged leaders and the application of risk management can enable readiness and mitigate undesired outcomes. Use this holiday observance to talk with your peers and family members about off-duty threats and to plan for the months ahead. I thank you for your commitment to the U.S. Army, and I wish you an enjoyable summer season.
5. Strength and Wisdom!


JOHN C. KELM
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding General

2018 Memorial Day safety message

Memorial Day represents a day of national awareness and reverence, honoring the military men and women who gave their lives in defense of the nation and its values.

Memorial Day honors fallen service members while Veterans Day is an opportunity for Americans to publicly recognize living military veterans.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War Soldiers and a day to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, commander-in-chief, Grand Army of the Republic, proclaimed May 30 as Decoration Day by General Order No. 11.

The Uniform Monday Holiday Act moved Memorial Day from May 30 to the last Monday in May. The law took effect in 1971 at the federal level. In 2000, Congress established the National Moment of Remembrance on Memorial Day.

The Army honors, remembers, and recognizes the ultimate sacrifice made by the fallen service members. The Army will join the nation in observing Memorial Day by participating in and hosting remembrance ceremonies, pausing for a moment of silence, visiting memorials, and placing American flags at gravesites.

Known as "Flags-In", Soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) place small American flags at every grave marker at Arlington National Cemetery before Memorial Day and remove them the day after.