



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON FORT HUNTER LIGGETT
BUILDING 238 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, CA 93928-7000

IMWE-FHL-ZA

04 FEB 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRUBUTION

SUBJECT: Fort Hunter Liggett Washington's Birthday Holiday Safety Message 2011

1. Washington's Birthday, unofficially Presidents Day, the federal holiday honoring George Washington was originally implemented by an Act of Congress in 1880 for government offices in the District of Columbia and expanded in 1885 to include all federal offices. As the first federal holiday to honor an American citizen, the holiday was celebrated on Washington's actual birthday, February 22. On January 1, 1971, the federal holiday was shifted to the third Monday in February by the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

2. As we honor President Washington, leadership is the key to the safety of our Soldiers, civilians and family members. Complacency is the enemy of safety. Winter weather, road conditions, winter sports activities, excessive alcohol consumption, home fires and suicidal behavior are all hazards of great concern. Leaders make a difference, teach your personnel to identify risks, to remain aware of their surroundings and incorporate risk management into their plans.

3. Remind Soldiers of the following best practices for traveling: Limit distractions in vehicles while traveling, especially in cars equipped with electronic devices, including cell phones, video games and global positioning systems, it's the law.

4. Our goal as always is that everyone returns from this holiday healthy and happy. I am sure that your commitment and the Chain of Command's concern for our Soldiers, family members and civilians will make a difference this holiday weekend and continue to save lives.

KEVIN W. NEWMAN
CSM, USA
Installation CSM

JAMES M. SURIANO
COL, CA
Commanding

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