



July 2009

July is marked for the celebration of our nation's independence in 1776. Shortly after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams wrote to his wife:

"I am apt to believe that this day will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore."

Today, Independence Day and the surrounding holiday weekend period is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, picnics, concerts, baseball games, political speeches and ceremonies and various other public and private events celebrating the history, government and traditions of the United States. To safely participate in some or all of these festivities, we need to acknowledge the risks associated with each and take the proper precautions by mitigating or eliminating the enemy of risk. Eliminating risk does not mean eliminating fun. On the contrary, by eliminating some or all of the risks associated with the events of summer, we can bring great joy and happiness to our celebrations instead of pain and suffering caused by an injury or death.

With the sweltering heat already being felt by many of us, it's hard to believe we're not even halfway through the Army's Safe Summer campaign. Despite the escalation of fuel cost, more of us are hitting the highways and taking well-deserved vacations to visit Families, beaches or theme parks. Driving a privately owned vehicle is still the most dangerous activity you can do this summer. Make sure you have filled out a TRiPS assessment and that you, as well as your passengers, are wearing your seat belts every time you get into a vehicle.

With topics encompassing everything from boating and swimming to hiking and rock climbing, participants in the Safe Summer campaign will find a myriad of tools and useful information to make their summer more enjoyable. Leaders, Soldiers, civilians and Family members will find tools such as subject videos, posters and news releases that are available to download at <https://safety.army.mil>.

Internet and multimedia tools found on the USACR/Safety Center's Web site and social media sites enhance the composite risk management process, but there is no substitute for good leadership. Statistics have clearly shown that Leaders who use all the tools available to identify and mitigate risks have the biggest and most lasting impact on their units. This act, coupled with the ruthless enforcement of standards and discipline, will help ensure your organization does not experience the needless loss of combat effectiveness. Tough, but caring, engaged leadership may not always be popular, but our Soldiers, civilians and Family members depend on Leaders to remain vigilant in order to drive down unnecessary losses and sustain our "Band of Brothers and Sisters."

Thank you for your continued engagement and efforts to reinforce the principles and practices we know to be successful in mitigating risk and preventing accidental losses.

Army Safe is Army Strong!

WILLIAM T. WOLF  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding