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Over the last two or three years, we have made encouraging progress in achieving a safer Army by changing Soldiers' understanding of safety and the desires for Leaders' direct engagement. At the Combat Readiness/Safety Center, we see through the statistical analysis of losses, that where Leaders are present and engaged - There is Goodness.

Where we appear to be lacking is in the common understanding of who are Leaders (are they only those who wear the accoutrements of rank?) and what actions we exact from Leaders to ensure our Army operates safer and is best prepared to meet demanding requirements.

Gen. Campbell (CG, FORSCOM) professes that engaged Leaders are engaged, responsible, accountable, and in a solid working relationship with Soldiers. He further states engaged Leaders are not detached, but rather are able to communicate effectively with their Soldiers which leads to an in-depth understanding and better develops their knowledge. This allows Leaders to recognize Soldiers' behaviors and influence their attitudes; clarify standards and ingrain habits of adherence to standards; infuse confidence in Soldiers, comrades and formations; and most importantly, instill Soldiers with the confidence in their Leaders' abilities to enhance/ensure mission success.

Today's Army is bridging a generational, informational and cultural gap. Current Leaders reach into the ranks to fill voids in knowledge, raising awareness specifically where Soldiers are not likely to have the skill sets to understand. Look carefully at the attributes of Leadership as discussed in this article and where you expect the actions that accompany this sacred honor to reside in your formations. Every Soldier is a Leader on some level. My expectations are that we all take responsibility, within our individual spheres of influence, to make this the safest Army our Nation has ever had.

Army Safe is Army Strong!

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Commanding