




## Ulchi Freedom Guardian UFG '11 Safety Message

1. Ulchi Freedom Guardian '11 is a demanding exercise that presents a great opportunity for our joint and combined forces to evaluate our mission essential and critical supporting tasks. I know that all participants will work to maximize training benefits from this exercise. While there are many training benefits, personnel must be reminded that even routine task can be hazardous and that caution is a lifesaver. In the past, we have experienced catastrophic accidents involving vehicle and aviation operations. Accident prevention planning and strict enforcement of approved safety standards will reduce risk and the potential for accidents.
2. It is essential that commanders and leaders at all echelons engage with their units to ensure safe execution. As exercise play evolves, the potential for accidents increases. To maximize our efficiencies and maintain an appropriate level of safety, leaders must identify hazards and control risks across the full spectrum of our missions, functions, operations, and activities in order to defeat complacency, overconfidence, and, indeed, fatigue. Vehicle operations and continuous change in our operating environment, such as heavy rains and hot weather, will probably present the greatest safety threats to our forces - especially to new arrivals and off Peninsula personnel. I encourage each of you to take the time now to ensure the relationship between your specific mission task and safety is in the proper balance.
3. I expect leaders and service members to be thoroughly familiar with risk assessment and risk mitigation guidance regarding air, ground, sea, and port operations. Success of this exercise will be measured against our execution of battle tasks, management of tactical risks for changing situations, and, importantly, how safely we conduct the operation. This exercise will not be considered a success until everyone returns home safely.
4. I am deeply committed to the achievement of our UFG training objectives. I am also equally insistent that we execute the training safely. Not having a serious injury or loss of life should be an achievable goal in this upcoming exercise. Commanders and leaders, take charge of your units. Service members, I want you to train and exercise safely. Thanks to all for your commitment to our great ROK ally and the security, we both provide for this magnificent land. I greatly appreciate what you do and the professionalism you exhibit in doing it. We go together!

  
JAMES D. THURMAN  
General, U.S. Army  
Commander

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