



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

IMYN-SO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY GARRISON-YONGSAN
UNIT #15333
APO AP 96205-5333

30 January 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 2013 Lunar New Year Holiday Safety Message

1. This year the USAG Yongsan Community will celebrate with our Korean hosts the Lunar New Year holiday on 10 February 2013. This holiday, also known as "Sul Nal" to our Korean hosts, is one of two major holidays for traveling by the Korean people. It is customary for families to travel to their hometowns to visit, greet and pay respects to relatives and final resting sites of their ancestors.
2. With the holiday falling on a Sunday this year it has limited the number of days that most families are available to travel. As a result 9 and 11 February are expected to be the heaviest travel days. The Korean National Police Traffic Affairs Division expects 34 million people to travel this holiday, with 27.2 million going by car. There are expected to be around 3.5 million vehicles on the move each day across the country, with 670,000 of these within the city of Seoul alone. Last year, during the five days surrounding this holiday there were 2,300 serious accidents causing 4,000 injuries and 47 fatalities. Expected travel time from Seoul to Pusan is 9 hours, and travel from Seoul to Daegu is forecast to be 7 hours.
3. Before the start of the Lunar New Year holiday weekend I expect supervisors to conduct safety briefings with all personnel. These briefings will cover at a minimum: driving while in a dense traffic environment, fatigued, distracted or impaired driving and a review of appropriate actions following a breakdown or accident. As always, I expect each of us to "do the right thing" in every situation, every time. If your plans include alcohol consumption, then prior planning is the key that will ensure personal safety and ZERO alcohol related incidents. In addition, remind personnel about the importance of wearing brightly colored or reflective clothing during hours of darkness on/near roadways and the mandatory use of crosswalks.
4. Most importantly, enjoy this well deserved holiday weekend. I encourage you to spend quality time with your families and friends and to take time to learn more about Korea, the country and its culture. Lastly, keep this holiday a time of joy by making the right decisions that keep you, your family, your career, and your friends SAFE!

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Commanding

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