

Commander's 2012 Holiday Safety Message

Families are the bedrock of our Brigade, and this holiday season, our Troopers will have the opportunity to spend an extended leave with family, loved ones, and friends. Last holiday season the Troopers of the 4-25th ABCT supported our Nation's fight overseas, celebrating the holidays surrounded by their Army Family, far from the comforts and safety of home. The service and sacrifice of all our Troopers and Families continue to be humbling reminders of the price of freedom. We thank all of you — our Troopers, Family members, and Army Civilians — for your many sacrifices in the defense of freedom, now and every day.

The holidays are a time to focus on what's important, and we want you to remember how important you are to the people in your life. Your relationships with your spouse, children, parents, siblings and fellow Troopers can't be replaced — only you can fulfill them. Preventable accidents leave far too many seriously injured in our Families and formations every year, and we need you to stay safe in everything you do.

Winter weather, fatigue, and alcohol are all deadly on the road, so it's imperative that you plan ahead, get plenty of rest, and stay sober when you're behind the wheel. Wherever your plans take you during this year's exodus, remember that safety plays an important role in keeping the holidays happy.

With winter weather setting here and record numbers of travelers forecasted for our highways and roads, long-distance journeys can be particularly risky for Troopers driving to visit Family and friends. Also, keep in mind that complacency can be especially dangerous after a long deployment, so get adequate rest and stay alert and focused even on short trips close to home.

Alcohol is a common menu item at holiday parties, so step up to be a designated driver or arrange for cab service to ensure everyone makes it home safely. The safe decision is often the easiest, and you can have a tremendous impact in helping your buddies make the right choices, not only during the holidays, but every day of the year. Check in often and make sure they are safe in all their holiday activities.

Thank you again for everything you do for our nation and our Army. On behalf of the 4-25th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, we wish you and yours a happy, healthy and safe holiday season and New Year.

All the Way! Arctic Tough! Sparta Lives!

TERRY D. GARDNER
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Command Sergeant Major

MATTHEW W. MCFARLANE
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Commanding