



## **Redoubling Our Efforts**

After one of the coldest and snowiest winters on record, many of our Soldiers, Family members and Civilians are looking forward to the approach of spring and the chance to get outside for some eagerly awaited sunshine and balmy temperatures. Before we take advantage of all the spring and summer seasons have to offer, however, I'd like to congratulate each of you on a job well done this past fall and winter. Throughout fiscal 2011, our accidental fatalities have remained consistently below last year's numbers by at least 10 percent, with losses in privately owned vehicles down by as much as 25 percent at any given time. These reductions show that even in the worst of weather conditions, our Army Family is doing the right thing for safety. Thank you all for your efforts every day!

The warmer months offer abundant opportunities for fun with Family and friends, but historically, they're also the most dangerous time of year for our Band of Brothers and Sisters. Far too many Soldiers die every year in accidents associated with "spring fever," whether on the road, open water or any other number of scenarios. For example, during 2010, we lost 74 Soldiers in off-duty accidents between April and September — an average of just over 12 deaths per month — due primarily to POV, motorcycle and pedestrian incidents. After a particularly brutal winter, there's little doubt our Soldiers will be especially eager to take their motorcycles out of storage, enjoy a road trip in their POVs or let off a little steam with friends at local lakes and beaches. As Leaders, peers, Family members and Civilian co-workers, we must redouble our efforts this spring and summer to keep all our Soldiers safe and in the fight.

Just as with our past successes, engagement will be critical to this effort. Although the problem areas we see most — speed, drinking and driving, lack of seat belts in POVs or personal protective equipment on motorcycles — are deadly in many situations, the solution to them is often as easy as a simple conversation with an at-risk Soldier. For Leaders, this means showing their Soldiers they care by taking a personal interest in their off-duty safety and holding them to the standard, even after duty hours. Indiscipline doesn't have to be fatal, and it's up to Leaders to ensure their Soldiers realize the consequences of risky behavior.

Active engagement by friends and Family members is equally vital, for they have access to their Soldiers when Leaders don't. Engaging these two groups is a Leader responsibility as well, so their inclusion in the unit's safety programs should be a top priority. Data from the Army Readiness Assessment Program show our Army's safest units have adopted this "village" approach to safety by utilizing every available asset in their safety programs. Our Soldiers deserve nothing less than the full effort and focus of all their Leaders and loved ones, so extend an invitation to your unit's Family readiness groups or quality of life representatives before your next safety stand-down.

As always, the USACR/Safety Center stands ready to help you keep your Soldiers safe in the coming months. Beginning April 1, the annual Safe Spring/Summer Campaign will go live via our website, <https://safety.army.mil>, and be available through Sept. 30. This year's theme, "What Have You Done to Save a Life Today?" asks a crucial question of our Army Family and is designed to provoke thought and conversation on our most pressing safety issues through media products, including public service announcements, posters and feature articles covering more than 15 topics. The ready-made campaign presents a great opportunity for Leaders to engage with their Soldiers, enhance their own seasonal safety programs and reach out to Family members and the community for help in keeping the warm days of spring and summer both fun and safe.

To help reinforce the appropriate attitudes and behaviors necessary for promoting off-duty safety among our Soldiers, TRADOC, along with the USACR/Safety Center, has recently introduced a new tool for Leaders and Soldiers called **Off-Duty: On Guard**. This tool helps to raise the awareness level of Soldiers about the decisions they make, while giving them practice in intervening in the unsafe decisions of others. Currently, there are two modules: Beyond the Waterfront and Full Throttle. In each of these modules, participants make decisions for their playable characters and then see how those decisions play out. This tool can be used in small groups with a facilitator or self-instructed, self-paced. To preview this dynamic, interactive tool, visit <http://www.tradoc.army.mil/offdutyonguard/>.

The third module of our Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Safety Factor presentation will also be released April 1, so be sure to update your current toolkit with the latest video clips and information available on our Army's most common risk takers. Finally, continue to encourage your Soldiers to participate in the third-annual Peer to Peer video competition, which runs through June 30. Prize packages totaling more than \$4,000 to benefit your local BOSS programs are up for grabs, and your Soldiers will no doubt enjoy the opportunity to showcase their creativity while sending a positive safety message. Like the Safe Spring/Summer Campaign, both the Safety Factor and Peer to Peer competition are available on our website.

Thank you again for your part in making fiscal 2011 one of our safest years yet, and remember your commitment to safety is critical in the weeks and months ahead. Challenge both yourself and your Soldiers to save a life, and get Families involved in the process. There's no better time to engage on safety than today!

Army Safe is Army Strong!

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**William T. Wolf**  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding