



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, FIRST ARMY DIVISION EAST
4550 PARADE FIELD LANE, SUITE 413
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5340

AKFA-DVE-CG

5 October 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: First Army Division East Commander's Safety Philosophy

1. As the First Army Division East Commander, I am the Senior Safety Officer. I am responsible for the safety and welfare of all personnel in this command and for the safe, efficient use of all equipment and property under our control. This isn't a responsibility I take lightly. However, I do believe that safety is everyone's responsibility – especially our leaders. This command's greatest assets are our Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members. I would consider the loss of a team member due to neglect, carelessness, or flawed leadership while executing duties as member of this command to be our biggest failure.

2. Composite Risk Management will be the cornerstone of our safety program. All leaders will integrate and use Composite Risk Management everyday and in everything we do. As outlined in the First Army Division East Safety SOP chapter 6-6, we will use the Three-Tier Composite Risk Assessment for all First Army Division East training operations. First, the Brigade S-3 shop will develop a general risk assessment for the operation. Second, the lane Trainer/Mentor or the person in charge of the operation will then develop a more detailed risk assessment based on current conditions. Third, the final risk assessment will be conducted by the training unit or the first line supervisor before execution of the operation. I expect all leaders at all levels to complete and review risk assessments as part of rehearsals and preparations prior to any mission. These assessments must factor and weigh the risks associated with METT-TC as a model to help organize your safety approach.

3. Safety actions, just like combat actions and operations, require TEAMWORK. Watch out for your teammates. Let your teammate know if he/she is doing something wrong, so they can fix it before it turns into a preventable event. Be aware of the signs of distress from your fellow team members. If you see something, you must ACT before it is too late. Making a difference and preventing accidents requires the support of all of our team members: our Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members. Keep your team members informed and give them time to prepare for their missions. If we do, they'll be able to react and respond appropriately to almost anything.

4. Leaders must lead from the front and stay involved. Train, instill discipline, enforce standards, correct mistakes, validate current TTPs, and know your team members. By understanding the mission and the associated hazards, we can take measures to reduce risks prior to execution. Repeat safety checks daily. Rehearse team and combat battle drills until muscle memory is achieved. Remember, repetition leads to confidence, and confidence leads to true mastery.

AKFA-DVE-CG

SUBJECT: First Army Division East Commander's Safety Philosophy

5. Operating a vehicle, either on or off duty is one of the most risky activities our team members perform. Leaders must ensure that required POV inspections are conducted and the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) tool is being utilized prior to travelling outside of the command's mileage radius. Implement the following simple mitigation measures immediately to reduce the likelihood of accidents: use proper load plans on MRAPs, train and rehearse maintaining three-points of contact on tactical vehicles at all times, conduct crew coordination drills between the driver, gunner, and truck commander (TC) to communicate vehicle clearance and road hazards. TCs should actively communicate with drivers about speed and upcoming turn/rollover hazards. Finally, TCs should check gunners each time they roll out before each movement to ensure proper use of the Gunners Restraint System.

6. Motorcycle accidents continue to be the number one killer of our Soldiers. There is both a command and leader responsibility to ensure our Soldiers are educated on the hazards of driving and use of all applicable safety equipment (Personal Protective Equipment). Other motorists, inexperience and alcohol have been major contributing factors to injuries and deaths in recent motorcycle accidents. It is my goal to use the First Army Strategic Safety and Occupational Health Plan to reduce motorcycle accidents by 50% over the next two years.

a. Progressive Motorcycle Training. Leaders must identify and track the required training for all Soldiers who ride motorcycles. All Soldiers must complete the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Basic Rider Course before riding a motorcycle on or off post. Within 12 months of completing the Basic Riders Course, every Soldier who rides a motorcycle must complete either the Experienced Rider Course or the Sport Bike Rider Course, depending on the primary type of motorcycle. Commanders must ensure that all military riders complete this advance training within the prescribed timeline.

b. Motorcycle Refresher Training. Commanders must ensure all military motorcycle riders who have either deployed or have not ridden for more than 180 days complete Motorcycle Refresher training before riding their motorcycle. Training may be provided through contract instructors or established locally by unit members. Course details are available at <https://safety.army.mil>.

7. Accident Reporting. Across the Army, there has been significant underreporting of accidents. 1AE will not contribute to this problem. All Soldiers will properly report and, in applicable cases, record all accidents IAW DA PAM 385-40. Reliable and timely data is critical in order to accurately identify trends and understand their magnitude. It also aids in the development and dissemination of accident prevention programs. It is 1AE's responsibility to report accidents involving Title 10 Deployment Expeditionary Force (DEF) units through FORSCOM to the Department of the Army. We will work closely with our DEF unit's chain of command to collect these essential reports within a timely manner.

AKFA-DVE-CG

SUBJECT: First Army Division East Commander's Safety Philosophy

8. Commanders – ensure your safety programs are nested within the guidelines of AR 385-10 the Army Safety Program, FORSCOM Regulation 385-1, the FORSCOM Safety Program and the First Army Division East Safety SOP.

9. Be cognizant of our civilian neighbors as many of our training areas share boundaries with them. I ask you to communicate with the local populace and let them know about upcoming major training events. Coordinate with local law enforcement, local Department of Transportation Offices and inform them when we you will be training on or around their roadways and in their communities. Build solid relationships with your neighbors as this will pay big dividends and set the conditions for safe training events as well as foster a great partnership with the local populace.

10. The ultimate goal of every member of First Army Division East should be to suffer NO loss of life, limb, or eyesight or sustain costly damage to equipment due to flawed leadership and preventable accidents. Safety is paramount in all that we do, and safe actions are the hallmark of a disciplined force.

Safety is a team sport, what is your position.

Train for Combat!


KEVIN R. WENDEL
Major General, USA
Commanding