



February 9, 2018

**Protecting the Force – Presidents’ Day Holiday Safety**

1. Presidents’ Day will be observed on 19 February 2018. Over this long weekend, America pays tribute to those individuals who served as President for their patriotism and leadership of our nation. As we observe this important day, we must also remain aware of our safety responsibilities as individuals and leaders. Everyone needs to remember that unnecessary loss of life occurs when we as individuals, leaders, or as a group let down our guard.
  
2. During every holiday period, the national accident rates go up in every category and the Army rates are no exception. The risk of death and injury to soldiers, civilians, and family members, resulting from avoidable accidents must make us realize the need for a strong and united commitment to safety and accident prevention. Remember, only as a team can we protect the individuals and the equipment that makes up this organization. Weather conditions can change suddenly during this time of year; therefore, increased reliance on defensive driving requires that these techniques be strongly emphasized and encouraged. Speeding, alcohol, fatigue, and not using seat belts continue to be the contributing factors of accidents and injuries in the Nation and Army. We must strongly emphasize defensive driving to all our personnel.
  
3. Our goal is to celebrate this patriotic holiday without a single accident involving a Quartermaster team member. Let us continue with the outstanding safety record of last year. This goal can only be achieved with hard-hitting preholiday safety briefings that strike at the core of accidents. It’s a challenge, demanding a focused effort.
  
4. May each member of the U.S. Army Quartermaster School celebrate a safe Holiday. Let’s continue to emphasize safety at work and home. Enjoy your holiday and be careful. Stay alert and stay alive! Let’s make the right choice and enjoy a happier tomorrow. We owe it to ourselves, our families, and our country.

SEAN J. RICE  
CSM, US Army  
QM Command Sergeant  
Major

JONATHAN O. YERBY  
RCWO, US Army  
QM Regimental Warrant  
Officer

RODNEY FOGG  
Brigadier General, US Army  
Commandant