



## Texas Military Department

# Ground Vehicle Safety

**The Profession of Arms** is an inherently dangerous business. We must actively seek ways to conduct tough, realistic training, while mitigating unnecessary risks. One of the key ways we mitigate risk to our people is through the proper training and licensing of our Soldiers and Airmen, and maintaining our equipment to standards. The ground vehicle safety stand down illuminated several negative trends in these areas. Over the past 12 months, we have made great strides as an agency, and I will continue to rely on leaders at all levels to ensure that we dispatch and train on our equipment safely. As such, I am officially lifting the safety stand down requirements effective 1 February 2021 for all units across the Texas Army and Air National Guard.

**We must maintain our focus** on licensing, dispatching, maintaining, and operating our equipment both safely and in accordance with appropriate regulations and guidance. I expect commanders at all levels will continue to emphasize the tenets of the TMD J45 ground tactical vehicle audit checklists at all times. While the agency continues to establish and refine programs to assist units in training equipment operators, maintaining user level access within GCSS-Army, and developing unit level maintenance programs; the responsibility for meeting published standards remains with the commander.

**We will continue to assess** the efficacy of our unit drivers training and licensing programs, unit maintenance procedures, and equipment dispatching and PMCS programs. The J45 Surface Maintenance Branch stands ready to continue to assist units in all aspects of safe equipment operation. So again, while we have made great strides and sufficient progress to return to pre-stand down dispatching and operating, we still have areas in which we will continue to grow our competencies:


### TO REMAIN COMBAT READY WE MUST:

**Prioritize** driver training, not only for initial licensing, but for specialty equipment. Driver training is vital and must be a programmed training event.

**Constant Follow Up** by leaders at all levels to ensure proper procedures are followed across our force, equipment is dispatched properly, and operated by licensed operators.

**Maintain** active required user roles in GCSS-Army at each company/battery/troop. Commanders, Executive Officers and First Sergeants must be involved.

**Schedule and supervise** preventive maintenance checks and services (PMCS). PMCS is a deliberate event that must be scheduled, resourced, and supervised.

  
TRACY R. NORRIS  
Major General, TXARNG  
Adjutant General