MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: (JFTX I15-12) Memorial Day Observance and Safety Message

1. Each year on the last Monday in May, we remember and honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation. On 25 May 2015, we again pay tribute to these men and women, remember their service, and renew our commitment to the Nation.

2. We can best honor and recognize those who served before us by continuing to protect the freedoms of our Nation. We owe it to them not to squander this gift through needless loss of life. Today, the exceptional work done by each of you plays a deciding role in the success of the Texas National Guard. Our service members and civilians remain visible forms of courage, trust, and cooperation. We are all Ambassadors for our state and nation.

3. While I encourage each of you to take full advantage of the long weekend to relax and enjoy quality time with your family and friends, I want you to do so with safety in mind. I ask commanders, directors, and supervisors to discuss safety at your staff meetings prior to the long weekend. Special emphasis should be placed on using safety equipment properly (seat belts, personal flotation devices, motorcycle safety gear, etc.). If you travel, start your trip well rested, and plan to take periodic breaks if traveling long distances. Drive sensibly, yet defensively. If your activities include indulging in alcoholic beverages, take care to designate a safe driver or arrange an alternate safe means of transportation.

4. Pay particular attention to conditions in Texas and where you travel. This year has brought much-needed rain and flooding is an ever-present risk in many areas. Rivers and lakes are at levels not seen in several years. Plan for your activities and check weather reports to account for this additional hazard.

5. POC for this memorandum is the TXARNG Safety and Occupational Health Office at ng.tx.txarng.list.safety-office@mail.mil and 512-782-6843.

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