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## Commanding General's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Safety Message



On Monday, 20 January 2020, we celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On this day, we honor the contributions he made to the American Civil Rights movement that significantly improved our American way of life ensuring that each of us is measured by his or her character and not by skin color. The 1964 Nobel Peace Prize recipient and civil rights leader led the way to end segregation and pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As we celebrate Dr. King's birthday and his legacy, let's make safety a top priority. This holiday weekend affords each of us an opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends, participate in the various 'MLK' celebration events, enjoy a short get-away, or simply to rest. Hazardous cold weather road conditions due to early morning road icing, rain and/or fog, coupled with extended hours of darkness, increases the risk of vehicle and motorcycle accidents. If you plan to travel, remember that the decisions you make before and during travel can save your life and the lives of others. Make sure your vehicle is properly serviced and in safe operating condition. Ensure you check weather forecasts, have an emergency kit, drive defensively and appropriately for the weather conditions exercising good judgment.

During this time of year as we continue the hunting season, we ask that you apply personal risk management and planning before you enter the woods. Ensure to check the weather forecast and have all the pertinent personal protective equipment for environmental conditions. Confirm your tree stands are in good working condition and you fully understand all the safety precautions associated with it. We highly recommend to hunt with a buddy and/or leave a detailed plan with a reliable person who can search for you and notify authorities if you have not returned by a pre-arranged time.

As you enjoy this holiday weekend, take a moment to reflect and celebrate the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who fought so hard for freedom, equality, and dignity for all. Enjoy a safe and responsible holiday weekend. We are "Army Safe and Army Strong."

Defense and Fraternity

WILLIAM M. RINEHART Command Sergeant Major, USA DANIEL R. WALRATH Major General, USA Commanding