



Army South Command Memorial Day Safety Message



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In 1868, General John A. Logan called for a nationwide day of remembrance designated for the strewing of flowers or decorations on the graves of our fellow Soldiers who died in defense of our country. This day in history was known as Decoration Day and later became known as Memorial Day. On 25 May 2020, Soldiers, Civilians and Families across the country will pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives in defense of our Nation and the freedoms we enjoy today.

Memorial Day also marks the unofficial start of the summer season, which statistically tends to be the most deadly time of the year for our Soldiers and Civilians. This summer will look a little different, and the flexibility to go and do as we wish will be slightly curtailed due to COVID-19. Most of us are anxious to take advantage of outdoor activities and enjoy San Antonio and the warm weather. We encourage each member of the team to approach this season with sustained vigilance and discipline by placing your safety and the safety of others at the front of your planning process.

As Texas begins to relax COVID-19 related restrictions, the CSM and I ask you to maintain focus on "protecting yourself and the team" by continuing to follow CDC and Department of Defense guidance and mitigation measures. During this holiday weekend and for the foreseeable future, we encourage you to maintain social distancing and refrain from large group gatherings. Stay disciplined in your approach and abide by CDC guidelines to wash your hands, cover your mouth and face when around others, and clean and disinfect your home and work areas. When in public or when shopping, use cloth protective mask, sanitize your cart or wear gloves. When possible, avoid using public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis. Additionally, stay connected by seeking updates to the public health environment through Joint Base San Antonio, the City of San Antonio, and Bexar County.

Our collective efforts thus far have been very effective, mostly due to your individual awareness and implementation of various mitigation practices. Keep up the good work and don't be lulled in to letting your guard down as we transition to the summer season.

Finally, thank you for your hard work, dedication, and support to Army South. CSM Rinehart and I hope that each of you have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend.

Defense and Fraternity!


WILLIAM M. RINEHART
Command Sergeant Major


DANIEL R. WALRATH
Major General, USA
Commanding