



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

MAY 26 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE

SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM  
EVALUATION  
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION  
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE  
AFFAIRS  
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS  
DIRECTOR OF NET ASSESSMENT  
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Preserving the Force

Although the summer of 2019 was one of the Department's safest on record, we still lost 58 Service members to non-duty accidents between Memorial Day and Labor Day. This number demonstrates why we must ensure we are safe in all we do. One loss is too many.

Last year, private motor vehicle accidents accounted for the highest number of fatalities, followed by water-related incidents. As stay-at-home orders are lifted and travel increases, we must mitigate risks associated with these activities by wearing a seat belt at all times and avoiding risky situations as much as possible. Use all required protective equipment, keep yourself healthy and hydrated, and practice good judgment, both on and off-duty.

As we approach the summer season, we must also remain united in our vigilance to combat the coronavirus, both in the workplace and at home. I urge DoD personnel to continue following Force Health Protection and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, and in particular, remain mindful and attentive as activities start increasing again in our daily lives.

If you or your loved ones need advice or guidance, there are resources available at Military OneSource, which offers on-line and on-call support ([www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil) or (800) 342-9647), as well as a crisis hotline (800) 273-8255. These resources are free, confidential, and accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



OSD005043-20/CMD006115-20

As summer begins, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for your continued commitment to protecting our great Nation. Together, we can successfully navigate all the challenges this summer may bring our way. I extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for a relaxing, rewarding, healthy, and safe summer.

*Mark T. Esper*