

Commanding General's

Thanksgiving Day Safety Message

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Happy Thanksgiving. I am thankful for the Soldiers, NCOs, and officers who have volunteered to serve our nation in wartime. I am also thankful for the great civilians at the Maneuver Center of Excellence. And I am thankful for our family members without whose support our Soldiers could not serve.

Helping those in need is an important part of our holiday traditions. The Combined Federal Campaign provides Soldiers, DoD civilians, and other federal employees with a great way to help others. Through CFC, you can donate to thousands of charities, many of which have a direct impact on improving quality of life for our Soldiers and families at Fort Benning. The campaign on Fort Benning ends 15 December 2013, but donations can be made through MyPay through 5 January 2014. Please talk with your organization's CFC key person or visit the Fort Benning CFC website at www.columbusbenningcfc.org for more information.

If you are traveling for Thanksgiving, keep in mind that this week can be a very busy travel time, and adjust your schedule accordingly. For a safe, enjoyable holiday, keep these tips in mind:

- Never drink and operate vehicles. If alcohol is part of the plan, always plan for a designated driver to get everyone home safely.
- Conduct pre-holiday safety briefings and vehicle inspections for all Soldiers and civilians.
- Manage risk. All Soldiers traveling outside of the Fort Benning and Chattahoochee Valley area must complete a Travel Risk Planning System (TRIPS) report, which can be found online at <https://safety.army.mil>.

As you enjoy time with family and friends, please remember our fellow Soldiers who are continuing our important mission in Afghanistan. ***One Force, One Fight!***


H. R. MCMASTER
Major General, USA
Commanding