



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG™



Preserving and protecting our Army's combat resources

**U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER**

FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

## Are you part of the problem, or the solution?

Memorial Day launches the summer season and the most dangerous time of the year for members of the Army Team including Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, and Family Members. Off duty accidents account for roughly 75 percent of Army fatalities and for this reason, I'm going to address ways to keep members of our team safe during the summer season through smart risk management including the Army's Off Duty Safety Awareness Program, or ODSAP.

The ODSAP is a highly informative safety presentation containing statistics, contributing factors, prevention tips and other relevant information regarding off duty accidents. Developed for use at the battalion level and below, the presentation comes complete with embedded videos and speaker notes. The speaker notes can be used as is or modified to fit your presentation style or to reflect what's happening in your unit. The ODSAP was created by the staff at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center to help manage risk, prevent accidents and loss of life by members of our team.

Training, discipline and standards are fundamental elements for success in our Army. They allow us to accomplish our mission in a safe manner thus ensuring the welfare of our greatest resource, our Soldiers. How many of you know that over the last five fiscal years we have lost an average of 119 Soldiers to off-duty accidents each year? Let's look at this from a different perspective - 119 Soldiers almost equals an entire company. Now imagine your battalion, minus one company of Soldiers. This drastically impacts readiness and reduces your unit effectiveness.

The good news is that we can change this trend by applying the principles that we embrace on duty to all of our off-duty activities. We need to stress to our Soldiers that training, standards and discipline are 24/7 principles. To assist you, the CRC staff has updated the annual Off-Duty Safety Awareness Presentation. You can view or download the presentation from <https://safety.army.mil/ODSAP> or the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center's home page.

The materials and statistics contained in this year's presentation, titled "The Safety Equation: Are you part of the problem or part of the solution?" enhance safety awareness for numerous off-duty activities, as well as home safety, and address risky behaviors and the impact of fatigue and alcohol. Our goal is to assist leaders in making every Soldier aware of the off-duty hazards they face in the upcoming months and to let them know that they are part of the solution in preventing the next accident and needless loss of life.

Army Safe is Army Strong!

Leeford C. Cain  
Command Sergeant Major  
U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center