



## Independence Day 2011

In 1776, a small group of patriots banded together to begin an experiment in democracy that few predicted would become the greatest nation on earth. Through the 235 years since, American Soldiers have selflessly and courageously defended our freedoms. Your service ensures liberty will endure in this great land for many birthdays to come, and I thank you all for your dedication and sacrifice.

As we celebrate this July Fourth, we must not forget two of the fundamental elements of our profession of arms: responsibility and discipline. Safety is a vital part of both. Unwinding during holidays and off-duty time is essential to Soldier health and well-being, but temptations like drinking, speeding on the open road and deliberately neglecting to wear seat belts or helmets prove deadly far too often. Being responsible and disciplined means taking a few moments to think about the consequences of your actions and following through with a plan to ensure the best possible outcome for yourself, your Family and your Band of Brothers and Sisters. Be prepared, plan ahead and always incorporate safety into your holiday activities.

However you choose to spend the next few days, please play it safe and remember everyone who is counting on you to make it back after the long weekend. Thank you all for what you do every day for our Army and our country, and I wish each of you a very happy Fourth of July!

Army Safe is Army Strong!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William T. Wolf'.

**William T. Wolf**  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding