



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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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 Readiness During the Summer Months

You are the Department of Defense's most valued resource. Safety is not just "a program;" it is an essential and integrated part of our mission. How we take care of ourselves and one another determines our ability to protect and defend this Nation. Pausing to think before engaging in activities or knowing when to "knock it off" should be integral to everything we do – both on and off duty.

One fatality is one too many. Last summer alone, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Department suffered 72 accidental fatalities. Private motor vehicle accidents accounted for the highest number of fatalities, followed by water-related incidents. This is disturbing, and should challenge all of us to think twice about our daily activities.

This summer, I will rely on each of you – military and civilian – to remain vigilant. Adopt a safety mindset. Think through potential risks before engaging in activities and have a plan in place for emergencies. Be aware of your surroundings and speak up if you see something hazardous. Never let a high level of confidence or skill morph into complacency – safety risks exist for both novices and experts.

Our ability to successfully carry out the mission goes beyond ensuring physical safety. We need you to be at the top of your game physically, mentally, and spiritually. If you or your loved ones need advice or guidance, the DoD *BeThere* Peer Support Call and Outreach Center is available at (844) 357-7337 or www.betherepeersupport.org. If in crisis, call the Military Crisis Line at (800) 273-8255 or visit www.militarycrisisline.net. Both resources are free, confidential, and accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Please join me in helping make this our Department's safest summer yet. Enjoy time with your family and friends during these warm months, and return to your units and organizations refreshed, reinvigorated, and ready to defend our great Nation.

Patrick M. Shanahan



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