



Senior leaders,

I've spent only a few short months as director of Army Safety, but I'm pleased to share the news that we closed fiscal 2012 with the second-fewest accidental fatalities on record. This success doesn't have anything to do with me; it's because of you, our leaders, safety professionals and Soldiers, all engaged in our Army's fight against risk and preventable loss. Thank you!

However, celebrations of this success cannot overshadow the fact we lost 161 Soldiers to accidents. Nearly 70 percent of those deaths occurred in privately owned vehicles or on privately owned motorcycles, remaining the No. 1 accidental killer of Soldiers for yet another year. Off-duty safety is one of the toughest issues facing leaders today, but we are making significant progress through engagement. From the top to the bottom of the leadership chain, we have to keep the momentum going by sustaining and enriching our safety programs and doubling down on engagement activities.

Our on-duty safety performance was once again a remarkable success story, given continuing combat operations overseas and the growing number of Soldiers training at home station. For the second consecutive year, aviation fatalities were at record lows for the decade-plus since Sept. 11, 2001. On the ground, Soldier deaths in Army Combat Vehicles were also at historic lows, joining fiscal years 2001 and 2006 as the best on record in the new millennium. On-duty Army Motor Vehicle fatalities, however, rose 33 percent during fiscal 2012, a reversal of the positive downward trend seen in the previous two years. This increase could be an anomaly, but we should be holding our leaders and Soldiers accountable for the safe operation of their vehicles on every mission, whether it's in a HMMWV or a commercial vehicle from the motor pool. Eliminating complacency is the best place to start; it's one of the deadliest enemies we face.

Again, I thank each of you for all you did to make fiscal 2012 a great year for our Army and, most of all, our Soldiers. Your dedication to duty and to safety has made the difference and continues to impact all we do every day. But, let's not get caught up in statistics and think the worst is behind us — every number represents a Soldier lost forever to his or her formation, battle buddies and Family. Stay sharp and focused this upcoming year, keep doing what you're doing and adjust fire as necessary. Our Soldiers deserve nothing less than our very best!

Army Safe is Army Strong!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy J. Edens". The signature is cursive and fluid.

TIMOTHY J. EDENS
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding