MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Celebrate the Holidays Safely

During the holidays, we spend quality time with family and friends. It is a chance to enjoy a break away from our daily stresses while recharging ourselves to prepare for a new year of challenges and opportunities.

Sadly, the holidays are also a time when we see a spike in traffic accidents and off-duty mishaps. As more people take to the road, speeding and not wearing seat belts lead to needless deaths. Please remind your team members about the importance of exercising good judgment and looking out for one another so that we can ensure the holidays are a safe and happy time for all.

The holidays are also a time for us to honor those serving our country overseas, away from family and friends. It is the sacrifice and hard work of these Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Department of Defense civilians that give us the opportunity to enjoy the holidays with our loved ones.

As we begin this season, I would like to personally offer my sincere gratitude for the outstanding accomplishments we have achieved and to extend my warmest wishes for a happy holiday season.

Thank you and Happy Holidays.

[Signature]

Ash Carter
DISTRIBUTION:
Secretaries of the Military Departments
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Under Secretaries of Defense
Deputy Chief Management Officer
Chiefs of the Military Services
Chief of the National Guard Bureau
Commandant of the Coast Guard
Commanders of the Combatant Commands
General Counsel of the Department of Defense
Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation
Inspector General of the Department of Defense
Director, Operational Test and Evaluation
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
Department of Defense Chief Information Officer
Director, Net Assessment
Directors of the Defense Agencies
Directors of the DoD Field Activities