

Defender Six: Remember those separated from Family during the holidays

By LTG Rick Lynch

PENTAGON - Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all! Sarah and I extend our warmest greetings to each one of you and your Families.

This season of celebrations is a time of eager anticipation, joyful get-togethers and being with loved ones. It is a holy period for many.

The start of the New Year is a time of reflection, revelry and renewal. May your holidays be filled with the cheer, spirit of giving and hope that should be part of this season.

Please know that each one of you is important - to your Family, to the Army, to Installation Management Command/Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and me.

Remember our Soldiers and civilians who will not be with their loved ones. Remember those who valiantly defend our nation against threats and go into harm's way to protect our freedoms.

Consider participating in programs established to honor our Soldiers and Families, giving to a local charity or simply offering a prayer of thanks. Reach out to those who may be experiencing pain during the holidays.

Make safety a part of all you do. Be cautious when driving in ice and snow. Be mindful of the dangers of fire and carbon monoxide. Be extra careful when consuming alcohol, driving after partying, driving without adequate rest and using lighted candles for decoration.

Give the gift of life by following and sharing the safety information in our IMCOM Fall/Winter Safety Brochure available at <http://www.imcom.army.mil/hq/officecom/staff/safety/> to plan and enjoy your seasonal celebrations safely. And the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPs) at <http://combatingaggressivedriving.com/trip%20planning.html> helps identify travel risks and reduce the chance of an accident.

On behalf of Sarah and I, Command Sgt. Major Neil Ciotola and his wife Beth, and the entire command leadership team, I wish you a safe, enjoyable holiday season and a prosperous New Year. Thanks for all you do. We are making history together.

Support and Defend!

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, Defender 6



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