



COMMANDER'S CORNER



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Division Commander

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

May 11, 2012

Warriors, spring has arrived! This is a great time of the year, and is also a very busy time of year.

Many of our teammates are leaving and many new faces will join us in the Division. This creates a special set of challenges for us, and all of these challenges can be overcome.

The first challenge is our transition period. As Soldiers and Families begin to transition across the Division, I must emphasize the importance of deliberate and thorough handovers.

Each left-seat/right-seat ride is critical to sustained readiness, and readiness is essential to our mission success. Therefore, I expect our outgoing Warriors to ensure these transitions are well executed.

While our newest members will have assigned sponsors, all of us are sponsors and I need your help to ensure our new Soldiers and their Families are appropriately welcomed and set for success.

The second challenge is family readiness – some of us are blessed to have our Families with us. However, there is a special component to Family readiness in the Republic of Korea, and that is to be prepared for a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO).

It is essential that all Families participate in the peninsula-wide NEO exercise called Operation COURAGEOUS CHANNEL, May 17-20.

COURAGEOUS CHANNEL is a capstone exercise designed to help us rehearse our NEO procedures and ensure both Soldiers and Families are prepared. Participation is mandatory for both command sponsored and non-command sponsored Families.

As we prepare for this year's exercise, please ensure you and your Families do your part. Each Family must bring their NEO packet and their protective mask to their designated Evacuation Control Centers to be processed for onward movement.

To assist you, each company in the Division has a NEO Warden designated to help prepare Soldiers and Families. NEO packets contain vital information, and it is important that a NEO Warden inspects your packet prior to the exercise. Families will be entered into the NEO electronic personnel tracking system and be issued their NEO tracking bracelets.

Our third challenge is safety – the time between Memorial Day and Labor Day is the highest accident period. We have made great strides in reducing accidents, and we need to keep our guard up over the summer. We need every member of the Team!

Finally, Memorial Day is right around the corner. While I know everyone is looking forward to a few days off, let us not forget the true meaning of the day.

Every day as 2ID Soldiers, we stand together as part of the great U.S.-ROK Alliance – ready to defend Korea tonight if called upon – just as the many generations have before us, whether in this country, or in missions around the globe.

Memorial Day is a time to pause for thought, and I hope you will join me this year by taking a moment to honor our fallen who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We owe each of them debt of gratitude – may we never forget their sacrifice or that of their Families.

To all of our current 2ID Soldiers and Families, thank you for all you do every day in service to the Warrior Division and our Nation.

“Second to None!”