



From the Commandant of the United States Army Air Defense Artillery School

President's Day is a great time to enjoy a well deserved winter break; a long weekend with family and friends. It is when we reflect on all our presidents. We also want to reflect on our fellow Soldiers deployed around the world. It is their continued sacrifice that enables each of us to enjoy this winter break. We will continue to provide support to them in any means we can.

Here at Fort Sill, we are recovering from the worst ice storm in Oklahoma's recorded history. I am thankful that no ADA Soldiers or family members suffered a loss of life due to this terrible storm. Our branch is made up of Soldiers, Families and Civilians who have, and continue to, show their resiliency and leadership during crisis. As the storm recovery operations continue, we will work with our fellow Soldiers, Fort Sill, Lawton and the surrounding communities to rebuild and enhance recovery efforts.

As a part of our recovery efforts, many of us will be using chain saws, hand saws and climbing up and down ladders. While conducting these operations, please ensure that proper safety is observed at all times. Do the simple things; ensure you wear long sleeve clothing, heavy gloves and the proper safety glasses while using power tools and saws. Remember to have four points of contact while using ladders, and bend at the knees, not the back when doing any lifting. Think safety!

We are still deep within the winter season. Weather such as sleet, snow and ice are still possible and create treacherous driving conditions on roadways. Take the time to ensure safe driving and vehicle operation. For those of you flying, please be aware of possible delays and plan accordingly. Allow extra time at the airport and be patient. Whether you are doing storm recovery, air travel, or driving during this holiday weekend, please remember to be safe. We haven't lost anyone and we can't afford to lose a single person to what is an avoidable accident.

Thank you all for what you do every day to support and protect our Nation. I wish each of you and your families a happy and safe President's Day weekend!

FIRST TO FIRE!

ROGER F. MATHEWS
Brigadier General, USA
Commandant