



U.S. Army photo

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston discusses the importance of safety during the summer season, especially when driving privately owned vehicles. POV accidents account for more than 45 percent of non-combat Soldier deaths each year.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston:

The past few months have been extremely trying for Soldiers and their families around the world. We recently completed the largest overseas deployment and redeployment of forces since World War II. Nearly 250,000 Soldiers along with thousands of vehicles and aircraft were moved around the world. A great deal of credit belongs to the Soldiers and civilians involved in making it happen seamlessly. Your efforts have been vital to our continued success in the Global War on Terrorism. This operation was a good news story that did not make it onto the 6 o'clock news.

We also paid tribute to our World War II veterans and our Army celebrated its 229th birthday. We owe a great deal to our grandparents and parents who sacrificed so much to defeat tyranny and helped keep the world safe for 60 years.

The summer season is upon us and, fortunately, many of our troops have returned home to their loved ones and will be able to take a much needed break. Don't forget safety as you head out on long drives or hit the beach with your families. The Army Safety Center, <http://safety.army.mil>, is a great place to get the latest tips on preventing heat injuries, summer safety and the Army's Safety Campaign Plan. We continue to lose too many Soldiers to accidents. This Web site is a great place for unit leaders to start putting together a safety program for their units.

I also recommend you take a look at <http://www.armyone.com>. This Web site is a great source of information and contacts for dealing with the stresses of daily life. The site includes financial calculators, childcare locators, self-assessments, healthcare tips, news articles and other useful links. It's a great site for unit leaders and Soldiers returning from a deployment or training exercises.

This issue is one I strongly encourage Soldiers to keep with their leader books. It's a special 64-page double issue with half

Preston urges Soldiers to be safe this summer

of it dedicated to the "best of the *NCO Journal*." These articles include ones that have run since the first issue in the Spring of 1991. They include stories on preparing for promotion boards, securing assignments, how to succeed at the battle staff and first sergeant courses. All of the articles are updated to reflect new policies and doctrine.

You'll also find the latest on Army Transformation efforts to include stabilization, rebalancing, reorganization and modernization. The deployment reintegration training efforts in Europe and CONUS are also featured.

The article on military vehicle safety is one I ask each of you to pay special attention to. With the high pace of operations both on and off duty, all Soldiers and leaders must work harder to identify and teach those around us about potential hazards.

It's also fitting that there's an NCO history timeline in this issue. NCOs make daily contributions that often go unnoticed. Our legacy is something we should be proud of and strive to learn more about.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the *NCO Journal's* outgoing editor, Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter. Master Sgt. Hunter has been with the *Journal* for two years now and has spearheaded the magazine's revitalized look and content that makes it a tremendous tool for all Soldiers. She and her staff have put in countless hours to track down subject matter experts and information to help make our Corps a success. I appreciate her talent and dedication. It shows in every issue.

HOOAH!

*Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army*