



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
3630 STANLEY ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6100

Office of the Commanding General

Dear MEDCoE Families,

We are pleased to confirm that your aspiring Soldier will get the opportunity to return home and spend this holiday season with family and friends. In order to have a happy, healthy and safe holiday, this season must be different than years past.

As our Soldiers depart the relative safety of the training "bubble" to visit loved ones, our nation continues its fight against COVID-19 variants. It is imperative that your Soldier continue using the techniques that have proven most successful in containing the spread of the virus: frequent handwashing, wearing a mask, and practicing social distancing when in crowded areas. As they return to your care, we ask for your support in ensuring their health and welfare and a safe return to Fort Sam Houston. Their readiness is vital so they can continue their journey and complete their commitment to becoming a Soldier in your U.S. Army.

Further, every year aspiring Soldiers commit acts that jeopardize their futures as Soldiers or injure themselves due to unsafe or illegal activity while on leave. Your Soldier was briefed on the proper use of seat belts, as well as the dangers of drinking and driving, fatigued driving, and texting or cellular telephone use while driving. Help us reinforce good driving habits with your Soldier, and please do not allow your Soldier to drive until well rested and fully reintegrated back home.

Additionally, a high level of physical health and fitness is an essential requirement to graduate from Advanced Individual Training. Please encourage your Soldier to exercise daily while at home on leave and to do so with a partner in a safe environment that adheres to COVID-19 precautions. It is imperative that your Soldier refrain from using any illegal substances, to include non-prescribed medications and marijuana. All Soldiers will undergo a drug test upon their return. Alcohol consumption is illegal when under 21 years of age. Alcohol and tobacco use are prohibited for all Soldiers during holiday block leave (HBL) travel periods. Soldiers must also remain in uniform and in masks while traveling to and from HBL in all modes of travel.

It is imperative for your Soldier to adhere to the Army values at all times and return to Fort Sam Houston fit and ready to continue training. Thanks for your continued support! Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Handwritten signature of Clark J. Charpentier in black ink.

Clark J. Charpentier
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army
Command Sergeant Major

Handwritten signature of Dennis P. LeMaster in black ink.

Dennis P. LeMaster
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding