PEDESTRIANS

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, pedestrians are injured every 8 minutes by a motor vehicle collision. Deaths of pedestrians are increasing more each year. In 2016 there was an 11 percent increase in deaths over 2015. Some reasons for the increase in deaths and injuries is more vehicle traffic, distracted drivers, and more people walking for better health.

As a driver, you should be alert, concentrate on driving, and always look ahead. There are several practices to reinforce being a safe driver around pedestrians:

- Continuously look as far ahead as possible and note any pedestrians.
- Watch for school zones and crosswalks. Pedestrians have the right-of-way.
- Pay attention to children playing nearby, and be prepared to stop if necessary.
- Keep your eyes moving at least every 2 seconds. Look to the side, rear, and in front.
- Be aware of pedestrians in and around parked cars and parks, and at camp.

Always communicate with pedestrians, and make them aware of your presence. Ways to communicate include:

- making eye contact with pedestrians
- using turn signals
- slowing down or stopping if you lose sight of pedestrians
- if necessary, tapping on the horn in advance not to startle the pedestrians

BE PREPARED. Pedestrians are more vulnerable to serious injuries or death when struck by a vehicle. Pedestrians, especially children, may not be paying attention to your vehicle.