

A couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to meet and talk with Maj. Gen. USA (Ret.) Vincent Boles. If you aren't familiar with him, you should be.

Six weeks before the attacks on September 11th, 2001, Vinny Boles was a newly selected one-star General. He reported to take charge of a contingency command, one that would be called upon by the nation if "the worst thing happened." On September 11th, the worst did happen and Vinny and his team went from planning to execution in an instantly changed environment. Across five continents and over eight years of this persistent conflict, as a combat commander, coach, trainer, leader and world-class logistician, he has built teams that have consistently gotten the right item to the right place at the right time under the tremendous pressures of war.

I asked him about the upcoming holiday that traditionally marks the beginning of "beach season." This is what he said:

*Memorial Day...Yes, it is a Holiday...but it is very different from other holidays on our calendars...It does not have the bounty of Thanksgiving, the anticipation of Christmas, nor the revelry that accompanies New Year's Eve.*

*Rather on Memorial Day we do 2 things that are different from other holidays. First, we remember those who gave, as Lincoln said, "their last full measure of devotion" for us and the freedoms we enjoy as citizens. Second, we should take a moment to rededicate ourselves to be the type of citizens worthy of such a sacrifice.*

*Each of those national treasures went for us; they believed we were worth it. Let us not allow the sacrifice of that treasure to be in vain.*

*all the best...Vinny*

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