

# Safety Stand Down

## Lapses in judgment can put lives in danger

By Lt. Gen. Don Campbell, Jr.

### III Corps and Fort Hood Commanding General

At no time in my 33 years of service has this Army had more professional and selfless Family teams in its ranks. Nothing is more important to me than the safety of our military members and their Families.

Since taking command, I've used this editorial to express my tremendous pride in the Soldiers, Families and community members at the Great Place. I've said how important it is to me to be professionals at our jobs and take care of one another and how proud I am to serve with so many dedicated people.

The majority of us show that we care for others in the community and act professionally everywhere.

Letters, like the one I shared last week, where one Soldier went out of his way to help a member of the community, make me even prouder to serve here with you. However, there are those that have lapses in judgment and unintentionally put themselves and others in danger.

The decisions of some of our fellow Soldiers and members of the Fort Hood Family have resulted in a disturbing increase in fatal vehicle accidents.

In almost every case, these tragic accidents could have been avoided by following the basic traffic laws and Fort Hood licensing regulations. A poor decision by one person too often affects many others in our Army team.

Something as simple as speeding puts others, including our Family members, in danger and likely will not help you get where you were going any sooner.

On and off post, I continue to see Soldiers and civilians run red lights, cut others off in traffic and even fail to yield to emergency vehicles. Motorcycle accidents continue to go up with the majority of those involved not wearing the proper safety equipment and not being properly licensed.

Professionals do not act this way. Disregarding laws, orders and basic rules puts you, others in the community and our Families in danger. You owe it to yourself, this team and our Families to think about your actions.

It is important to understand that your decisions and sometimes your inactions affect others.

I challenge everyone to take responsibility for their actions while driving or riding. Consider what it may mean if you run that light and hit a car with an innocent Family in it. Think before you decide to ride your motorcycle at unlawful and unsafe speeds.

Tell your friend or Family member to slow down and give the vehicle in front of you room. Set a good example for our children and the community, and help make Fort Hood a safe, great place for everyone.

Regrettably, as an Army, we have also seen an increase in suicides of our Soldiers over the last few months. In some cases, the stresses of Army life can seem overwhelming, but no one is alone in the Army. Rest assured that we are a Family and we can count on one another for support.

I guarantee that there are fellow Soldiers and Family members who have survived the same problems you may be facing. I encourage everyone to be watchful for those among our Family that may need assistance, and if you feel that you need help, ask.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with asking for help – it is simply the right thing to do when you feel you cannot go it alone. Understandably, there are moments in life when everyone needs support. Some problems are simply a two-person lift, and you should not feel weak because you can't move them alone.

Likewise, we must look out for our battle buddies and Family members. If you see signs of a problem, speak up. Use the suicide prevention training you have received and help your teammates. Any loss of life is tragic and hurts the Families, the community and our team.

Please remember, we are a Family team here at the Great Place. We must watch out for one another and take responsibility for our decisions.

Together, we will continue to make our community, Fort Hood and the Army stronger.

Thank you for all you do every day and be safe.

Army Strong! Phantom Warriors!