

# FATALITY



AFZF-GA-SAFE

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
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SEP 02 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: HMMWV Rollover Results In Fatality – Fatality Memo 03-17

1. Recently, a III Corps soldier was killed when a HMMWV rolled over while the crew was training at the National Training Center. The vehicle was an M1025 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), with two crewmembers on board – the driver and the senior occupant, a sergeant, who was standing in the gunner's hatch even though no weapon was mounted. The driver did not have his seatbelt fastened and was not wearing his kevlar. When the driver attempted to negotiate a curve on the tank trail at a high rate of speed, he lost control of the vehicle, skidded over 180 feet, which resulted in the vehicle rolling over. Both occupants were ejected from the vehicle. The driver sustained fatal injuries when the vehicle rolled over him. The sergeant was thrown from the gunner's hatch and sustained serious injuries.

2. The accident investigation board determined that the sergeant failed to discharge his leadership duties by not ensuring that the driver complied with the posted speed limit and wore his seatbelt and kevlar. The board also concluded that the sergeant had no need to be in the gunner's hatch from which he could not adequately control the driver. Another board finding highlighted a pre-existing loose steering on the HMMWV, which was a factor in the accident. The loose steering should have been identified during pre-deployment/convoy checks.

3. This unfortunate incident is a prime example of how a sequence of unsafe events that deviate from established standards can ultimately result in an accident. We are in a very dangerous profession with inherent high risks. Standards exist in our regulations, manuals, and SOPs as checks and balances to counter training challenges and risks. Our commanders and senior leaders are charged with ensuring that the junior leaders are effectively carrying out and training their soldiers to perform to established standards.

4. Caring and knowledgeable leaders should continuously teach these standards to their soldiers to ensure successful missions and to minimize losses. Leaders who are 100% engaged and committed have a positive impact on this synchronization by infusing correct standards and experience into the crew training.

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS**

THOMAS F. METZ  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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