

# FATALITY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
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AFZF-SAFE

JUL 01 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

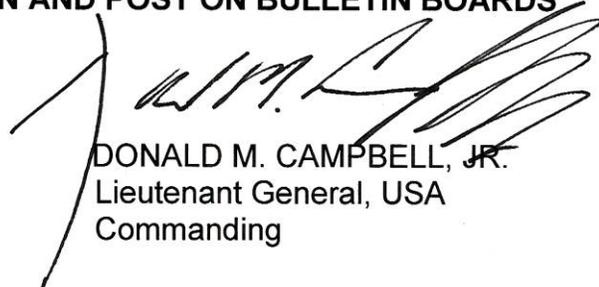
SUBJECT: Multiple Vehicle Accidents Result in Soldier Fatalities

1. During the recent weekend break, one Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) and two serious motorcycle accidents claimed the lives of three III Corps Soldiers. Each accident is being investigated to determine causal factors; however, some facts are known. The first Soldier died when his motorcycle left the roadway and struck a fence. The Soldier was transported to a local medical center where he was pronounced deceased. On the same day, a second Soldier died in a POV accident when her vehicle struck an embankment. A post crash fire ensued and the Soldier was fatally burned. An additional Soldier lost his life while operating his motorcycle when he lost control after striking a piece of wood that fell from a truck. The service member was transported to the local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. All three Soldiers possessed operator license endorsements, appropriate training permits, and were wearing required personal protective equipment.

2. We have lost twice as many III Corps Soldiers in motorcycle accidents this year than the same time last year. Leaders and individuals should not consider personal travel activities low risk, especially when the travel occurs on unfamiliar roadways. Safe motor vehicle operation requires drivers to maintain constant situational awareness of changing conditions and roadway obstacles. Speed and following distance should be managed to allow sufficient time to react and avoid conditions where vehicle control can be lost. Accidents and fatalities such as these are never acceptable. Most motorcycle accidents occur when the operator fails to negotiate the given path or an obstacle. Vehicle operators must never become complacent. Roadway and traffic conditions are ever changing, obstacles and hazards should always be anticipated.

3. Commanders must be innovative and committed in making a difference in protecting our Soldiers. Our duty is to prevent POV accidents and their associated injuries. As we continue to support our War efforts, every leader and Soldier must be prepared and remain vigilant for the hazards associated with the "War on the Roads." We must properly prepare our Soldiers for roadway operations, as well as help them recognize potential hazards.

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DONALD M. CAMPBELL, JR.  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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