

# FATALITY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE  
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000



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AFZF-SAFE

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Water-Related Accident Results in Fatality

1. A III Corps Soldier died over the Easter weekend in a water-related accident. The Soldier and some friends were swimming in a pond when the Soldier decided to do a belly-flop into water 3 to 7 feet in depth and did not resurface. Following a 20-minute search by his friends, the Soldier was located and transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead from a suspected broken neck. The initial investigation revealed that the Soldier had been consuming alcohol and had been doing back-flips off the dock.
2. This accident brings the number of accidental fatalities involving III Corps Soldiers to 8 for this Fiscal Year. While this is the first swimming related fatality involving a III Corps Soldier since August 2009, drowning remains one of the leading causes of death in individuals under the age of 44. Numerous factors in this fatality, to include jumping/diving into water of unknown depth, alcohol or drug use, and overestimating one's ability are the leading causes of drowning incidents.
3. Commanders and leaders must emphasize to Soldiers that the use of alcohol or drugs and any water related activity is a dangerous combination. First-line leaders must continually be engaged and conduct one-on-one counseling with their subordinates about potential high risk off-duty activities and how to mitigate risk. As the summer season approaches, we must be vigilant to improve water safety and stop a needless loss of life.

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

*As we enter the summer season let's ALL be safe during water related activities!*

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

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