

FATALITY



AFZF-SAFE

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



MAR 14 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Accident Results in Fatality

1. A III Corps Soldier died following a recent motorcycle accident. The Soldier was off-duty and on leave at the time. This accident is still under investigation, however, some facts are known. At approximately 0153 hours on 21 February 2011, a Soldier assigned to Fort Hood was traveling northbound on a roadway in Abilene, Texas when the motorcycle he was operating left the roadway and struck a metal fence. The police department reported no evidence of alcohol involvement, but they suspect speed was the primary cause factor as their current assessment is that the motorcycle was traveling in excess of 100 mph. The investigators are not sure the Soldier was wearing the helmet found at the scene because the helmet was virtually undamaged and the Soldier sustained significant head trauma. The Soldier was not wearing boots or gloves. The chain of command was unaware the Soldier had a motorcycle and had no knowledge of him completing any of the mandatory motorcycle safety courses.
2. This is the second fatal motorcycle accident so far this fiscal year for III Corps compared to zero fatal motorcycle accidents during the same timeframe in Fiscal Year 10. This indicates a sharp increase and an alarming trend in accidents this year that must be reversed. The common factors in most fatal motorcycle accidents are excessive speed, indiscipline and inexperience. Also personal protective equipment is required to be worn when operating a motorcycle at all times, on or off duty.
3. Commanders and leaders at all levels must encourage subordinates and first-line supervisors to insist upon compliance with all the requirements of operating a motorcycle successfully and safely. Don't allow indiscipline to mar the superb motorcycle program we have within III Corps.

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PHANTOM WARRIORS!

ROBERT W. CONE
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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