

FATALITY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
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FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000



AFZF-SAFE

FEB 15 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) Fatality

1. A recent early morning POV accident claimed the life of a young warrior and left another in critical condition. The Soldiers were returning to Fort Hood from a night of partying in Austin. The sedan they were traveling in left the roadway at a curve and impacted a tree. The Soldier, not wearing a seatbelt, died immediately; the other Soldier suffered a possible fractured neck and is in critical condition in a local hospital. The Soldiers were riding with two civilian friends. The civilian driver was arrested for involuntary manslaughter.

2. We are busy moving in many different directions. This fact puts us in a HIGH-RISK OPTEMPO. While commanders and leaders must continually coach and mentor their young troops, the individual Soldier is the first line of defense against undisciplined actions. Many of the scenarios read the same; speeding, alcohol involvement, and seatbelt not used. Most of our Soldiers are getting the message and operate vehicles responsibly; however, some Soldiers fail to heed the persistent messages reinforced by members of their chain of command. Peers and junior NCOs/Officers, who have frequent and close contact with these Soldiers, must remain vigilant in making sure that all Soldiers understand the message. We cannot afford to continue with these unnecessary losses of our Soldiers' lives.

3. The fatality described above was the fourth off-duty fatality experienced at Fort Hood this fiscal year. Although we had experienced 44 days fatality free, this latest fatal accident reinforces the fact that we can NEVER let our guard down in our campaign to prevent these needless accidents and loss of life. Commanders must be innovative, committed, and out front so they can make a difference in this ongoing campaign.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

*SEATBELTS
SAVE LIVES,
WEAR THEM!*


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

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