FATALITY

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

AFZF-SAFE

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

JUL 22 2011

SUBJECT: Weekend Multiple Fatality

1. Two III Corps Soldiers died and a third was severely injured in a recent privately owned vehicle (POV) accident. Initial investigation revealed that the driver was operating at excessive speeds, entered the opposite traffic lane, and attempted to correct the vehicle's direction. The vehicle veered across its original traffic lane, into a parking lot, and struck a large metal pole. The impact caused the vehicle to separate into several sections. The third Soldier remains hospitalized and will be permanently disabled.

2. This incident is the ninth POV fatal accident this fiscal year, resulting in the loss of ten III Corps teammates. Leaders and Soldiers must be aware of potential road hazards and take actions to mitigate these risks. Contributing factors continue to be excessive speed, aggressive driving, fatigue, alcohol, and cell phone usage. Additionally, failure to utilize protective equipment contributes to the severity of injuries.

3. Soldiers must be accountable for their actions. Leaders must take positive action to enforce standards and guide Soldiers on the path of risk mitigation. Active dialogue between Soldiers and leaders can be a great deterrent to undisciplined decisions. Too many times investigations reveal that a leader or another Soldier was aware of an unsafe act and failed to take corrective action. First-line leaders must be engaged and empowered to make these corrective actions.

4. Every leader and supervisor has the responsibility to safeguard our Soldiers. Commanders must ensure that Soldiers are prepared for roadway hazards. Senior leaders must mentor first line supervisors to develop the skill sets necessary to guide Soldiers through the planning and execution process of their off-duty activities. This can be accomplished through the use of composite risk management tools. Positive leadership involvement will make a difference.

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A Preventable TRAGEDY!

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

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