SAFETY ALERT

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

AFZF-SAFE

MAY 17 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Boating Accident

1. A III Corps Soldier was severely injured during a recent boating accident at Belton Lake. The Soldier had fallen off an inner-tube being pulled by his privately owned boat and was struck by another boat. The second boat was a rental from Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area (BLORA). The Soldier that rented the boat had the required Boater Safety card; however, he allowed an unauthorized person to operate the vessel. The injured Soldier sustained numerous broken bones and required partial amputation of a leg.

2. Warm weather is upon us and the Central Texas area has some awesome lake facilities to enjoy. Watercraft activities are one of the pleasures of the summer season. It provides an escape from the Texas heat and relaxes the mind from everyday stressors. With the correct utilization, Families and friends can enjoy a relaxing and festive outing. Watercraft also have an inherent risk associated with their operation, especially when not used properly or in the hands of an experienced operator. Failure to incorporate proper safety can result in injuries or fatalities. Following a few simple guidelines will assist in ensuring your leisure time on the water is pleasurable: boat only in authorized areas, only authorized individuals operate watercraft, never boat alone, and never consume alcohol and operate a boat.

3. Commanders must ensure that their Soldiers are briefed on this tragic accident and incorporate lessons learned into their summer safety programs. Caring leaders will make a difference when they convey accident prevention measures for recreational water activities. Let's not allow our summer season to be marred by another preventable accident such as this.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

PHANTOM WARRIORS!

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

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