



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5056



AFZF-GA-SAFE

13 September 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Pedestrian, Vehicle, and Personnel Safety – Fatality Memo 01-01

1. A pedestrian Fort Hood soldier attempted to cross a busy highway on foot this morning at approximately 0700 hours in order to enter the reservation during the current increased force protection posture. An automobile struck the pedestrian soldier, resulting in fatal injuries to the pedestrian. Since the incident is still under investigation, contributing factors are not identified yet. However, in view of the raised THREATCON level causing some personnel to resort to bicycling and walking to work, I want to reinforce some safety measures that your soldiers/civilians should be made aware of:

a. Until we rescind or change the staggered work schedule for our soldiers and civilians, commands/activities should comply as much as possible. The staggered schedule is designed to keep vehicle and personnel exposure on roads and highways to a minimum as much as possible.

b. Pedestrians must use crosswalks and sidewalks when available. Texas law requires that pedestrians who cross roadways yield to traffic on the roadway where crosswalks or traffic control devices are not present. However, pedestrians should not assume that traffic will yield at crosswalks; therefore, they must be cognizant of traffic when crossing at crosswalks. Other locations to cross are where traffic control devices for pedestrians are present at intersections or crosswalks. Vehicles must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

c. Bicycle riders that operate on roadways and who are moving slower than the other traffic must ride as near as practical to the right curb/edge of the roadway, unless making a left turn or riding on a multi-lane one-way road (TX law). Bicycles should not be used to carry more personnel than the bicycle was designed for, nor carry large objects that prevent keeping both hands on handle bars. Bicycle riders must wear appropriate safety gear (reflective vest and helmet) and are required to use front lamps and rear reflectors at night.

d. Vehicle operators should maintain constant situational awareness of pedestrians, and bicycle/motorcycle operators. U-turns on divided roadways should not be attempted, except at designated entrance or exit ramps and where authorized. Motorists who drop soldiers off near the installation gates are at risk when they make U-turns against opposite traffic.

2. Commanders and leaders must stress individual and POV safety at every opportunity; soldiers must be made aware of the life and death responsibilities they assume every time they enter traffic situations. This memo will be posted on unit bulletin boards for a minimum of six months.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. B. Bell".

B. B. BELL  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Commanding

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