

# FATALITY



AFZF-GA-SAFE

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



1 April 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: POV Accident Fatality/Prevention -- Fatality Memo 02-08

1. We lost another III Corps soldier during the early morning hours of this past Easter weekend in a terrible POV incident. If we determine that this was an accidental traffic fatality, it will bring our III Corps POV fatality count to eight for the fiscal year. For unknown reasons, the soldier who was driving by himself drove into the median divider of the highway, crashing into a cement support of an overpass. Initial report indicated that the soldier did not wear his seat belt.
2. As I have discussed in previous fatality memos, the accident/severity factors involved in POV accidents nation-wide have not changed much over the last 30 years. Speed, fatigue, alcohol, and not wearing seat belts have been, and still are the common denominators. These are the identical factors involved in our soldiers' POV fatalities. POV accidents are preventable. It requires soldiers receiving accident avoidance training, a clear behavioral contract with first line supervisors, and the use of good judgment and discipline. This is where our leaders, especially junior NCOs and officers, can have a positive impact on their soldiers welfare. Commanders must ensure and supervise that leaders are equipped and prepared to instill safe driving habits in their soldiers.
3. Charge your leaders to continuously scrutinize/assess existing POV safety programs and inject fresh ideas keyed to the POV safety challenge at hand - the common denominators mentioned above. Leaders must revisit holiday and special observance POV programs from last December (where we were so successful) and see if a little "retooling" creates a newer, timelier focus. Continue assessing soldiers' long weekend, pass, and leave plans to ensure adequate time and rest are factored in. Use existing resources extensively such as the Army Safety Center's web site and the Corps G1 Safety public folders for POV safety ideas. The recently updated POV Tool Box from the Army Safety Center is available on the Army Safety web site and the G1 Safety public folder. Updates include a POV inspection/pre-trip checklist, Chief of Staff of the Army's Six-Point POV Safety Program (implemented in III Corps Command Policy #G1-SAFE-02), and information regarding public service video clips by professional music artists supporting POV safety. Additionally, your leaders must impress upon the soldiers the immense legal, financial, emotional, family, and life consequences of unsafe/reckless driving. Soldiers must be taught to assess the potential risk of driving recklessly, or riding with someone who does. First line supervisors must be empowered to impact positively on soldier off duty driving behavior.

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS**

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

B. B. BELL  
Lieutenant General, USA

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