

FATALITY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
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AFZF-GA-SAFE

3 March 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: POV Accidents are Adversely Affecting the Corps' Readiness - Fatality Memo 03-10

1. Three separate POV accidents in a 3-day period a few days ago took the lives of four III Corps personnel – one soldier, one family member, and two DA Civilians. Additionally, the three accidents resulted in the deaths of four non-military civilians and serious injuries to three soldiers – one very critically. Two other soldiers and a minor dependent remain hospitalized. The causative factor in all three cases was improper passing. In two of these accidents the operator attempting to pass did NOT have a clear view of on coming traffic. The third operator due to an unknown reason allowed his vehicle to cross into oncoming traffic.
2. Historically, passing is the most dangerous driving maneuver. Many POV injuries and fatalities result from improper and unsafe passing. Knowing this, our leaders should incorporate proper passing techniques and other specific POV accident prevention measures into their POV safety programs and briefings. Key factors include getting adequate rest and considering weather conditions. A risk assessment is always crucial and can be especially valuable in the near future when our soldiers may want to take trips home before deploying.
3. The needless deaths and injuries from these three incidents will have a negative impact on the Corps' readiness, especially in these challenging times. We cannot afford to lose any of our III Corps team members – whether the losses are due to off-duty or training accidents. Have your leaders become familiar with the safety techniques outlined in the Army Chief of Staff's Six-Point POV Accident Prevention program, found at the Army Safety Center's web site <http://safety.army.mil/home.html>. POV safety is a perishable commodity and your leaders have to consistently stress POV safety to their soldiers in order to keep the subject fresh on everybody's mind.

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THOMAS F. METZ
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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