

FATALITY



AFZF-GA-SAFE

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



13 March 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Fatal POV Accident - Fatality Memo 03-12

1. On Monday morning, a tragic POV accident took the lives of a III Corps soldier, an 11-month-old family member, and injured another soldier in the vehicle. The early morning incident happened when the soldier's automobile slid off the road and struck a tree. While the accident is still under investigation, we have an initial report indicating that the driver was speeding.
2. With this latest incident, the number of III Corps soldiers killed in POV accidents has risen to 11 for FY03 with 5 occurring in the last 40 days. The 11 fatalities don't compare favorably to the 7 military POV fatalities the Corps experienced for the same period in FY02. None of us can take pride in knowing that III Corps POV fatalities to date constitute 27% of the Army's total number of FY03 POV fatalities and half of the POV accident related deaths in FORSCOM.
3. This record shows that we must take positive action to turn this trend around. Strong command emphasis and leadership involvement can make that happen. Have your leaders review your existing POV accident prevention programs for adequacy. Research and implement initiatives that will hone your POV accident prevention focus on the common threads of POV accidents – not wearing seat belts, excessive speed, fatigue, alcohol, and not wearing protective motorcycle gear. Your leaders can find a wealth of POV safety resource material in the "POV TOOL BOX" on the Army Safety Center's web site (<http://safety.army.mil/home.html>).
4. I cannot overstate the importance of leaders staying in touch with their soldiers' activities and plans. Staying in touch enables leaders to identify soldiers who are potentially at risk and then take appropriate actions to correct risky soldier behavior. We need 100% commitment from every individual, leader, and commander to stop the unnecessary deaths due to POV accidents.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS


THOMAS F. METZ
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
IAW FH Form 1853, A

FATALITY