

# FATALITY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
1001 761<sup>st</sup> TANK BATTALION AVENUE  
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000



AFZF-GA-SAFE

14 April 03

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Two Fatal POV Accidents Claim The Lives Of Two III Corps Soldiers -- Fatality Memo 03-13

1. In a short 14 hour span, two III Corps soldiers were killed in two separate POV accidents – our 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> POV fatalities for this fiscal year. On Saturday morning, one of the soldiers on a motorcycle rear-ended a pickup truck that had slowed down to turn off the highway. Initial reports indicate that the soldier was speeding. We also know that the soldier wore his helmet and there was no evidence of alcohol involvement. The other soldier, operating an automobile, struck a highway guardrail shortly after midnight, causing the vehicle to roll several times. Both accidents are still under investigation.

2. The warm spring weather and the upcoming summer months usually see an increase in POV travel, especially motorcycle operations. Your units' current summer safety campaigns should include hard-hitting motorcycle and other POV safety programs designed to provide accident prevention techniques and information. Motorcyclists should frequently be reminded of the fact that motorcycle accidents are less forgiving to the operator than automobile accidents. While not necessarily applicable to yesterday's motorcycle accident, I want to reiterate some motorcycle safety requirements. AR 385-55 directs that motorcycle operators must complete an approved motorcycle safety course prior to operating a motorcycle. Approved motorcycle safety courses provide information that make bike riders safer riders. The AR also directs that soldiers "wear a properly fastened, approved helmet wherever and whenever (on or off post) they operate a motorcycle or moped."

3. POV accidents continue to kill more soldiers throughout the Army than all other causes combined. At our present rate, we will record more POV fatalities than we experienced last year. It is needless to say that we cannot afford this "record." Leaders, especially the first-line leaders, must employ effective hands-on approaches to positively influence soldiers to drive safely and to wear appropriate safety gear. We cannot overemphasize the importance of POV accident prevention techniques such as always wearing seat belts, not speeding, driving only when well rested, not drinking and driving, and wearing appropriate protective motorcycle safety gear. Conserving our most precious resource, our great soldiers, is of the utmost importance.

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

Thomas F. Metz  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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