

FATALITY



AFZF-GA-SAFE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
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19 April 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: POV Fatality - Fatality Memo 03-14

1. Three days after two III Corps soldiers died in separate POV accidents over the past weekend, another Corps soldier died due to injuries from an early morning accident the previous weekend. Driving on a major highway, the soldier lost control of his automobile and ran off the right side of the road. He overcorrected coming back on the road, running off the left side of the road, and rolling the vehicle two times. Because the soldier was thrown from his car, we believe that he was not wearing a seat belt. Alcohol appeared to be involved, but alcohol test results are not available at this time.

2. Commanders and leaders must dedicate immediate attention to POV safety. One out of two injury-producing POV accidents involving soldiers result in fatalities. Our soldiers are at fault in about 80 percent of these accidents, most happening on weekends from midnight to 0600, where fatigue often plays a major role. Additionally, we know that only half of our Corps' fatalities wore seat belts. Our junior soldiers, in the 19 to 23 year age group, are involved in 90 percent of fatal incidents. They are our target population. The mindset of some of our junior soldiers is perhaps reflected in the fact that two-thirds of our fatal POV cases involved excessive speed.

3. Commanders and leaders should implement effective countermeasures to combat the accident producing factors mentioned above. An excellent resource is the "POV Toolbox" and the "Six-Step POV Safety Program." Both can be found on the Army Safety Center's website (<http://safety.army.mil/home.html>) and the III Corps G1 Safety public folder. The "POV Toolbox" contains numerous POV safety ideas that could enhance your summer safety campaign programs. The Six-Step POV Safety Program includes some hard-hitting POV safety initiatives, such as leaders conducting the "Next Accident Test" to identify potentially high-risk soldiers that may require special attention.

4. In light of our recent POV fatality trend, we cannot afford to continue business as usual. Caring leaders have to go the extra mile and assess their soldiers' off-duty plans and inject safety advice and controls when necessary. Ensure soldiers know the standard and comply. Nothing less is acceptable.

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Thomas F. Metz
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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