

SAFETY ALERT



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



AFZF-GA-SAFE

23 September 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Free-Falling Combat Vehicle Ramps -- Safety Alert 01-01

1. A Fort Hood soldier was injured when a free-falling Bradley ramp fell on his foot. The soldier found the troop access door ajar and pushed to shut it causing the ramp fall. Fortunately, the falling ramp pushed him backwards, out of harm's way; but it still struck his toes, smashing them. The soldier was unaware that unit mechanics had worked on the free-falling ramp earlier in the day and did not secure it or provide cautions.
2. The Bradley ramp and other combat vehicle ramps weigh up to 1,000 lbs. Soldiers must be warned when there is a possibility of that much weight unexpectedly falling down. In order to avoid further injuries from falling ramps, the following published procedures will be reinforced for inoperative combat vehicle ramp locks or hydraulic mechanisms:
 - a. Free-falling ramps will be marked on the outside: "CAUTION, FREE-FALLING RAMP, STAY CLEAR" (chalk, sign, etc.).
 - b. Secure free-falling ramp with available tow cable or other cable. See applicable TM for specific guidance on using tow cables for this purpose. When a free-falling ramp is secured with cables, soldiers must exercise care when entering the vehicle through the troop door in the ramp.
 - c. Soldiers will be made aware of which vehicles have free falling ramps.
 - d. Soldiers must stay clear of free-falling ramps in case cables snap and/or ramps unexpectedly fall. The area immediately to the rear of a free-falling ramp must not be used for sleeping, sitting, or working, unless it is a mission necessity. Necessity to operate in the area behind a free-falling ramp must be risk assessed and approved by a unit leader.
 - e. The existence of a non-operable ramp places the platform in a deadline condition in accordance with applicable TMs.
3. Leaders and informed soldiers are our first line defense for accident prevention. When we follow standards and communicate hazards to our troops, we are building a positive safety atmosphere in our units.

This memo will be posted on unit bulletin boards.

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

B. B. BELL
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding

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