



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5001

S: 21 Mar 02

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Summer 2002 Safety Campaign

1. References:

- a. FM 100-14, Risk Management, 23 Apr 98.
- b. TB MED 507, Prevention, Treatment and Control of Heat Injury, 25 Jul 80.
- c. III Corps and Fort Hood Reg 115-1, Weather Support, 15 Aug 98.
- d. III Corps and FH Reg 350-16, Prevention of Heat and Cold Injury, 1 May 99.
- e. III Corps and FH Reg 350-1, III Corps and Fort Hood Training Catalog, Jan 95.
- f. III Corps and FH Reg 95-1, Local Flying Rules, 15 Sep 00.
- g. III Corps Command Policy, GC-01-01, Severe Weather Reporting, 8 Jan 01.
- h. III Corps Command Policy, G1-Safe-01, III Corps Command Safety Policy, 5 Oct 01.
- i. III Corps Command Policy, G1-01-05, III Corps Privately Owned Vehicle Accident Prevention Program, 8 Jan 01

2. This memorandum outlines the Summer 2002 Safety Campaign requirements. The purpose is to ensure that we have minimal accidental losses due to the potentially hazardous environmental conditions that are prevalent during the summer season. The 101 days from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend are a time of heightened activity, both on and off duty. The increase of anticipated OPTEMPO during the spring and summer months, combined with increased off-duty travel and outdoor activities requires that we also increase accident prevention efforts during this period. Common sense dictates that we are adequately prepared and have our summer accident prevention programs in place long before the warm weather gets here. Now is the time to "war-game" the process to ensure that the fast-paced summer training and travel season is conducted safely.

3. Commanders and leaders owe it to their soldiers that they are adequately prepared to employ accident preventive measures to counteract the often hostile environment of hot summers. Caring leaders, particularly first line leaders, who are committed and dedicated to accident prevention and deeply involved in risk-managing the safety of their troops can make this happen. As with any other mission, your junior NCOs and first line officers are best suited to make an immediate and direct impact on soldiers' welfare. For this reason, it is necessary that you empower and hold responsible these junior leaders as the "point" of your summer safety campaign programs.

4. Commanders are directed to develop summer safety programs by 25 Mar 02 that address, as a minimum, the subjects outlined below. The end state of your programs must be knowledgeable, dedicated leaders and soldiers who are effectively trained and ready to avoid summer-related accidents and injuries. The Summer 2002 Safety Campaign will focus on six main areas: increased privately owned vehicle (POV) travel, heat injury prevention, weather-related hazards (tornadoes/lightening/storms), water/recreational safety, other seasonal hazards (poisonous plants, venomous snakes, insects/ticks), and family/community safety (traffic, running, bicycles, barbecues, lawn care, etc.). The effectiveness of the safety campaign depends on the successful accomplishment of the following key elements:

a. **Safety Stand Down Day.** During the period of 15 Apr to 15 May 2002, commanders of major subordinate commands (MSC) are to ensure that their units select a day and conduct a daylong summer safety stand down. MSC-wide stand-downs on the same day best convey to soldiers dedicated command involvement. However, for units with conflicting/critical missions, MSC commanders can select different dates within the period of 15 April to 15 May. Safety stand-downs afford excellent opportunities to assess your safety program effectiveness, implement fresh/bold accident prevention ideas, conduct meaningful safety awareness training, and allow your junior leaders to reach their soldier with important safety messages. Refresher risk management training (reference 1e) must be incorporated into safety stand-downs. I need direct feedback from commanders as to the date(s) selected (see paragraph 7, below).

b. **Command Information Program.** Starting in February 2002, and running through the summer months, the III Corps Safety Office and the III Corps Public Affairs Office will publish and disseminate summer safety campaign articles and material. Commanders/leaders will extensively utilize these resources in their units' ongoing campaigns. The following local resources can also be used to complement unit safety campaign programs: e-mails, III Corps G1 Safety public folders, Phantom Distro, red hash and yellow border safety alerts, installation newspapers and TV stations, and safety councils. Additionally, have your leaders use the Army Safety Center's web site for safety campaign resources (<http://safety.army.mil/home.html>).

c. **Accident Trend Analysis.** To correctly identify targets for accident prevention issues, commanders must review and analyze their past accident and injury trends. Review your equipment damage reports to identify additional accident prevention training needs.

d. **Accurate and Timely Weather Information.** To support your training and other outdoor activities, have your leaders extensively utilize their supporting weather elements for summer weather information and facts.

e. **Thorough Training and Education.**

(1) Commanders will ensure that summer season training is scheduled, conducted, and all personnel are trained on accident prevention measures for summer activities.

(2) All personnel subject to working or training in environments that could result in heat injuries will receive heat injury prevention training NLT 10 Apr 02 (see paragraph 7, below for commanders' feedback). To be effective, training must include information on the recognition, prevention, and prompt treatment of heat injuries. Use references 1b and 1d as starting points for your heat injury prevention training. The Preventive Medicine Office, MEDDAC, can provide hot weather injury prevention training and information on local seasonal hazards (heat injury prevention, poisonous plants; venomous snakes/insects).

(3) Driver training programs must address seasonal hazards associated with summer weather. Training should include corrective actions for drivers to take while operating in adverse situations such as flash flooding, thunderstorms, extreme heat, and high winds. Include provisions outlined in driver training manuals, i.e., FM 21-305, Manual For The Wheeled Vehicle Driver.

f. **POV Safety.** Increased summer travel brings with it the need to redouble POV accident prevention efforts. Commanders and leaders will conduct an aggressive POV safety program integrating the CSA's Six Point POV safety program (reference 1i) and utilize the Army Safety Center's POV TOOL BOX into their unit summer safety campaign (available on the G1 Safety public folder and at <http://safety.army.mil/home.html>). Ensure all the lessons learned regarding the dangers associated with alcohol and fatigue are included in your instruction. Empower and hold first line leaders responsible for positively impacting on the off-duty POV driving behaviors of their squads, crews, and sections.

g. **Continuous Risk Management Implementation.** As a part of the safety stand down activities, units and organizations will conduct initial and refresher risk management training IAW reference 1a and 1e. Leaders and soldiers are to be trained in order to make the risk management process second nature to planning and executing on- and-off duty activities.

5. Responsibilities (HQ III Corps and installation counterparts at Forts Carson and Riley):

a. Safety Office.

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(1) Provide Public Affairs Office (PAO) with summer safety information beginning in February 2002 and continuing throughout the summer season for use in the installation newspaper.

(2) Publish information on critical summer safety issues through the G1 Safety public folder, Phantom Distro, red hashes and yellow borders, safety grams, and other local publications to keep personnel aware of seasonal safety concerns.

(3) As needed, provide applicable summer season safety material to reserve component (RC) units conducting annual training at III Corps installations or to units training elsewhere that are hosted by III Corps units.

b. ACofS, G2. Review and update, as necessary, III Corps and Fort Hood Reg. 115-1, Weather Support, 15 Aug 98,

c. ACofS, G3.

(1) Review and update, as necessary, III Corps and Fort Hood Reg. 385-3, Procedures for Emergency Warning Announcements, 1 Jun 93. Focus on high winds that could damage aircraft and the procedures required for notification and feedback concerning aircraft safety and security during wind storms.

(2) Starting in March 2002, conduct monthly siren tests and assess effectiveness. Initiate action to upgrade siren system if test assessments indicate a need to better alert the population of adverse weather conditions.

(3) Plan and conduct annual tornado warning exercises at Forts Hood, Carson, and Riley NLT 31 Mar 02. Provide exercise information to PAO for publication in installation newspapers.

(4) Provide the Safety Office with information of RC units hosted by III Corps units.

d. Garrison Commander. Review and update, as necessary, III Corps Command Policy, GC-01-01, Severe Weather Reporting, 8 Jan 01.

e. Public Affairs Officer.

(1) Starting in mid-February 2002, publish summer safety information in the installation newspaper through the summer months.

(2) Publish tornado warning exercise information in installation newspaper.

f. Director of Community Activities: Review and update, as necessary, water safety/life guard SOPs for swimming pools and beaches.

g. Commander, MEDDAC.

(1) Conduct heat injury prevention training upon request and provide information on seasonal hazards (i.e. poisonous plants; venomous snakes, insects) throughout the summer season via Phantom Distro, newsletters, or fact sheets.

(2) Review each reported or treated heat injury. Share the injury category with the applicable unit commander prior to reporting the case to the Office of the Surgeon General.

(3) Aggressively conduct medical-related health and welfare surveys/tests with special emphasis on summer safety/health issues, i.e., tick/mosquito control, drinking water quality, and field sanitation controls.

h. Commanders/Directors, all units and organizations (including Active and Reserve Components and others whose training is hosted by III Corps units or is under III Corps control):

(1) Develop unit summer safety programs by 25 Mar 02 and ensure the program focuses on the six main areas outlined in paragraph 4, above. RC units are required to only incorporate applicable subjects expected during AT. Review unit SOPs and update as necessary NLT 25 Mar 02, to ensure unit-level summer season safety issues are adequately addressed.

(2) Conduct a daylong safety stand down during the period 15 April to 15 May IAW paragraph 4a, above (RC units exempted). Ensure III Corps Commander is informed as to the stand down dates (see paragraph 7, below).

(3) Establish a heat injury prevention program as follows:

(a) Appoint a Heat Injury Control Officer/NCO prior to 25 Mar 02, to oversee the unit heat stress program, interface with MEDDAC Environmental Health section on heat injuries and ensure all heat related injuries are properly reported. Use reference 1b and 1d as guidance for heat stress avoidance training and prevention.

(b) Conduct initial training for all personnel on heat injury recognition, treatment, and preventive measures NLT 10 Apr 02. Conduct refresher training monthly (once prior to AT for RC units) during the summer season. Identify all personnel with previous heat injuries and place white material (2" x 3") on the soldiers' web belt to identify them as such.

(c) Investigate all events leading up to a heat casualty to identify the cause to prevent future heat casualties, both in garrison and in the field, on- and off-duty.

(d) During unit training, operations and recreational activities, each company size element will monitor and record heat stress measurements as close to the actual training/activity site as possible using the standard Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) kit, NSN 6665-01-381-3023, IAW III Corps and Fort Hood Reg. 350-16.

(e) Supply adequate potable water and enforce water intake before, during and after physical activity. Ensure personnel maintain proper nutrition, including salt intake, by eating at least three meals per day. Follow guidance in references 1b and 1d .

(f) Minimize heat stress by risk assessing work pace and/or increasing rest period (see guidance in reference 1d.).

(4) Use reference 1i to ensure privately-owned vehicle accident prevention programs are up to standard. Commanders and leaders will be knowledgeable of the requirements for soldiers operating motorcycles, identify those in the units that own/operate both street and off road motorcycles, and ensure all soldiers who own or operate motorcycles have attended motorcycle safety training (i.e., Defensive Driving Course).

(5) For units with rotary or fixed wing aircraft, review, update, and rehearse aircraft tie-down and security procedures associated with severe weather. Additionally, review, update and rehearse procedures to fly away aircraft to safe locations should such conditions be required.

6. Off-duty and family safety is another important part of the summer safety campaign. Leaders must discuss with their personnel accident prevention measures for the following issues that have to be integrated in your summer safety campaign:

a. The junior leader/NCO chain of command of a soldier who is planning off-duty summer activities will assist the soldier with risk controls for the activities. Commanders and junior leaders will ensure personnel are aware of and comply with applicable safety requirements, to include the wearing of appropriate personal protective equipment for specific activities, i.e., life vests for boating/water skiing, helmets for motorcycle riders, etc.

b. PT and Running Safety. More people tend to be out walking, jogging and running during the warm weather months. Leaders must educate their soldiers to take precautions to avoid heat injuries and vehicle-to-pedestrian accidents. Individuals running or conducting PT on the roadways are to wear reflective vests (over the Army PT uniform during PT), continuously be aware of their surroundings, and not to wear head/earphones.

c. Bicycle, scooter, and roller blade safety. There will be more bicyclists, particularly children, on the roadways during the summer months. Bicyclists must wear helmets and follow the same rules-of-the-road as motor vehicle operators. Scooter operators and individuals on roller blades must also wear helmets, knee and elbow pads. Bicycle riders on the roadways are not to wear head/earphones.

d. Swimming and Water Sports. Established water safety rules are to be followed at on-post and off-post pools and other swimming areas. At open waterways and lakes, personnel on watercraft are to wear properly-fitted personal flotation devices. Only experienced personnel are to operate watercraft, and never mix alcohol and water sports. Leaders should caution their personnel that when swimming or diving, to be aware of the depth of the water and under-water hazards. Several III Corps soldiers have drowned or received spinal injuries in the past as a result of swimming in unapproved areas, beyond their capabilities, or diving in shallow areas.

e. Picnics and Barbecues. Follow food safety rules – keep it refrigerated to avoid food poisoning. Allow only experienced/adult personnel to operate barbecue grills and rigidly enforce safety rules to prevent burns and fires. Have fire extinguishing devices handy.

f. Heat and Sunburn. In addition to heat injury prevention on- and off-duty, special care must be taken to prevent sunburns, which can be a mission detractor, in addition to needless pain. Properly-used sun screen lotions can prevent sun burns. Leaders should train their personnel to risk assess summer outdoor activities by factoring in the time of the day. Scheduling outdoor activities in the mornings and late afternoons is an effective control measure to prevent burns from the sun and other heat stress injuries.

g. Grass Cutting. Only experienced/mature personnel should cut grass with power mowers. Ensure that older children who cut grass are knowledgeable and capable before allowing them to operate lawn care equipment. Before mowing or trimming grass, ensure the area is clear of small objects that might be propelled by the power equipment. Keep people, especially children, and pets out of the area to be mowed or trimmed. Mowers and trimmers can propel small objects for great distances. Always wear hearing/eye protection, and shoes and long pants to prevent injuries while operating power lawn care equipment.

7. MSC Commanders must provide to the III Corps G1 Safety Office the dates of: Scheduled command/unit Safety Stand Down Days, completion of summer safety campaign planning, and completion of heat injury prevention training, NLT 21 Mar 02. POC is Ms. Kuras, telephone - Comm (254) 287-7117/3459, DSN 737-7117/3459; or <mailto:veronica.kuras@hood.army.mil>.

8. The effectiveness and success of our summer safety campaign depends on four key items: adequate training, risk management, planning/preparation, and last but not least – concerned leaders taking complete ownership of their soldiers' safety. Demand that your leaders, particularly first line leaders, vigorously execute these responsibilities to ensure the safety of

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their subordinates during the summer months. As with all other important missions that require communication down to the individual level, commanders have to empower our junior leaders with strong command support and emphasis for this campaign. Commanders must provide leaders with adequate tools to reach their soldiers with the summer safety message. One way to do that is to conduct special summer safety training sessions during NCOPD/OPD for junior leaders, so that they become subject matter experts on summer safety issues. Ensure that this program is not a one-time event. To be effective, your summer safety campaign needs to be aggressively sustained all through the summer months. Accident and injury prevention must be central to all summer activities, both on- and off-duty. We cannot afford or accept the loss of a soldier, civilian employee, or family member to a preventable injury. Now is the time to review your program and ensure all facets are in order.



B. B. BELL

Lieutenant General, USA

Commanding

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1 Each III Corps MSC