

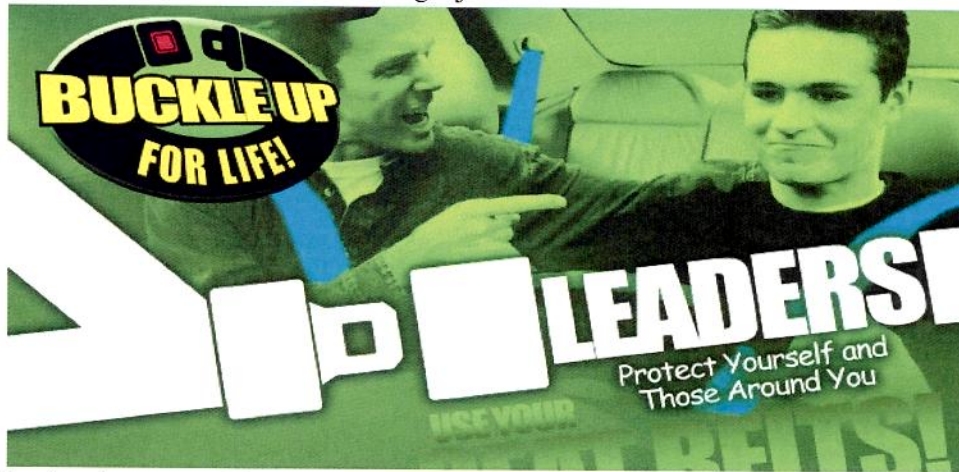


**Headquarters  
3D Infantry Division & Fort Stewart  
Fort Stewart, Georgia**



**FATAL POV ACCIDENT**

**Off Duty Accident Prevention.** POV accidents remain the most significant off-duty Soldier safety threat. From 1 October 2010 to date, the Army suffered 12 POV-related Soldier fatalities. On 4 February, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Soldier died after his head was massively injured in a POV accident. This is the second Marine Soldier to die in a POV accident since the Division redeployed. The Soldier was driving in rainy weather on a four lane boulevard in Warner Robins, GA. His 1999 Corvette went into oncoming traffic and collided with a pickup truck driven by a local civilian. The Soldier, who had chosen not to wear his seat belt, was thrown from his vehicle. His head was crushed under the vehicles wheels. The driver of the other vehicle was treated for non-life threatening injuries.



**Contributing factors to this accident include :**

- 1) Soldier failed to maintain control of his POV.
- 2) Soldier failed to wear his seat belt.
- 3) Adverse weather conditions (rain).

**Prevention:** We may never know what caused this Soldier to lose control of his vehicle and veer into oncoming traffic. *We do know what he could have done to keep his head from being crushed: worn his seat belt!* Leaders, emphasize once again and routinely, that seat belts save lives. Soldiers, ensure you and your passengers always use seat belts. This Soldier would be alive today if he had worn his.

Commanders, when appropriate, brief your Soldiers on the circumstances surrounding this accident. I will not tolerate non-compliance with vehicle safety requirements: seat belt use is an Army regulation and a Georgia state law - - and we need every good Soldier we're got for future fights. **Rock of the Marne!**

ANTHONY A. CUCOLO III  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding

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**BE SAFE, PREVENT ACCIDENTS**



**Headquarters  
3D Infantry Division & Fort Stewart  
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**FATAL MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT**

**Knowledge is power.** Knowing the contributing factors for fatal or serious accidents is the first step in preventing them. Since 1 October 2010, the Army has lost 11 Soldiers to privately owned motorcycle (POM) accidents - - all with devastating consequences to their Families, friends and the unit's they served.

Recently, we in the 3rd Infantry Division experienced such a loss. On 15 January 2011, a 3rd Infantry Division Soldier died from head injuries sustained in a motorcycle crash that occurred during the early morning hours on 13 January, in Savannah, Ga. The 30-year old Soldier lost control of her 1998 Harley Davidson motorcycle and fell from her bike. She was then struck by a second motorcyclist who was following behind. She was transported to a local hospital where she succumbed to her injuries and died two days later.



**Contributing factors to this accident include :**

- 1) Failure to maintain control of the motorcycle when crossing a (dip) in the road. Impaired operation due to alcohol use.
- 2) Failing to maintain an appropriate "see and avoid" distance when operating motorcycles in a group.
- 3) Adverse environmental and low lighting conditions (Cold / Wet / Hours of darkness).

**Prevention:** Leaders, continue to emphasize the consequences of drinking and driving and stress how alcohol effects individual coordination and slows reaction times. Also, remind your motorcycle owners they have less protection, and driving at night reduces the "see and avoid distance" increasing the risk from road hazards and adverse weather. As always, stress the importance of obeying speed limits, traffic laws, driving defensively, and use of common sense. Our dead Soldier was on the road at around 0200 hours when she died.

Commanders, when appropriate, brief your Soldiers on the circumstances surrounding this accident. Review your Motorcycle Mentorship Program and ensure its vibrant, effective, and implemented at the right levels. **Rock of the Marne!**

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