DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, V CORPS
UNIT 29355
APO AE 09014

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Policy Memorandum # 6

AETV-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Policy on Privately Owned Vehicle Accident Prevention

1. Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) accidents continue to be the single biggest cause of injuries and fatalities to our soldiers and family members. My intent is to have a POV accident prevention program that minimizes the number of injuries and fatalities by increasing safe use and continually promoting awareness. Leader involvement is vital to ensure that: accident assessments are conducted; lessons learned are shared; soldiers are educated on POV safety and that awareness is emphasized Corps wide.

2. Commander involvement is paramount in preventing serious injury and the tragic and needless loss of life that occur from POV accidents. Proactive, hands-on leadership at all levels is imperative, particularly at the squad leader or first-line supervisor level.

3. Following every POV accident that results in a fatality or serious injury, the battalion commander will conduct an accident assessment.

a. This assessment team will meet within six hours of the accident notification.

b. Commanders should include the unit safety officer and NCOs, local medical personnel, military police and chaplains to assist the assessment team.

c. The goal of the assessment is to determine what happened, why it happened, and how it could have been prevented.

d. The assessment will involve the implementation of corrective and preventive measures.

e. In order to insure that lessons learned are captured and broadly disseminated, the results of the assessment will be briefed to the first general officer in the chain of command of the unit experiencing the accident, and provided to the Corps Safety Office within five working days of the convening of the Accident Assessment Team. The format should be an Army Ground Accident Report to include three additional paragraphs; pre-accident phase, accident phase, and post accident phase. Each paragraph will describe in detail the circumstances that were involved in each phase.

f. V Corps Safety will forward this information to the command group, publish the circumstances surrounding the accident for safety awareness, and determine what actions can be implemented at the Corps level.

4. Our emphasis on POV safety must be unrelenting. Junior officers and non-commissioned officers see their soldiers every day. They should know where their soldiers go, what they do, and then assert positive influence on how, when, and where they operate their POVs.

5. Soldiers sometimes telegraph signals that translate later into accidents. Negative behavior such as traffic offenses, alcohol abuse, misconduct, and poor performance are often indicators of potential POV accident victims. We must identify "at risk" soldiers; counsel them; and take proactive measures to modify their risky behavior.

6. Use risk management to identify hazards associated with POV operations. Assess the hazards; make decisions to control them; implement the controls; and supervise execution. The next accident assessment is the best tool to accomplish this task.

7. Set high and unmistakable standards and enforce them. Soldiers must follow Army regulatory traffic standards and local laws. Leaders at all levels must be uncompromising on the use of seatbelts and motorcycle safety equipment. They should educate soldiers on the risks of speed, fatigue and use of alcohol. Furthermore, leaders should conduct mandatory POV safety inspections twice each year in addition to the inspection performed to update the vehicle's registration. We must all promote the use of designated drivers for social events.

8. Commanders should provide soldiers alternatives to driving POVs. Activities scheduled on post keep soldiers on post and off the road. Commanders should coordinate with Base Support Battalion Commanders' to keep gyms, recreation centers and other places soldiers use off-duty open later. These same measures also can provide alternatives to alcohol use. Promote the use of the Base Support Battalion and local transportation systems as alternatives to POV use.

9. We must all be dedicated to end these tragic and needless POV fatalities. Direct, positive, hands-on leadership will make a difference. POV accident prevention is leaders' business at every level of our Corps. We owe it to our great soldiers, civilians and families.

10. Victory Corps!

JAMES C. RILEY
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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