FATALITY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

MAY 3 1 2006

AFZX-SA

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Accident Resulting in a Fatality -- Safety Alert 06-03

1. A Fort Polk Soldier was killed when his ATV flipped over on him causing severe internal injuries. The Soldier was riding at night with friends when the accident occurred. He was not wearing a helmet or other personal protective equipment; he had not attended the motorcycle or ATV safety course offered on post; and he had been drinking alcohol. His friends – other NCOs – ignored the pending danger. The Soldier had purchased the ATV only two weeks prior to the accident.

2. **What were his mistakes?**

a. The Soldier was totally unfamiliar with the driving characteristics of his new ATV. His lack of experience coupled with riding at night was a major contributing factor to his death.

b. He failed to wear any personal protective equipment and he failed to attend either the motorcycle or ATV driver safety courses. His fellow NCOs failed to protect him.

c. He was driving under the influence of alcohol.

3. **Lessons learned.**

a. Inexperience when riding your vehicle of choice is asking for trouble. Don't take for granted that you know what you're doing. Attend the safety courses before you decide to ride.

b. Personal protective equipment is designed to save your life at best and mitigate bodily harm at least. Wear it! Friends don't let friends do the wrong thing.

c. Driving any kind of vehicle in conjunction with drinking alcohol is a dangerous combination. Don't drink and drive; it is not a cliché. It's a rule that can save your life.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON ALL BULLETIN BOARDS

Good units do not kill or injure their own Soldiers!

MICHAEL D. BARBERO
Brigadier General (P), USA
Commanding

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A+