SAFETY ALERT

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:

AFZX-SA

APR 2 0 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 5-ton Refrigerator Truck Accident-- Safety Alert 05-09

1. Recently a Soldier was involved in an accident on Louisiana Highway 117 at 1530 while driving a 5-ton refrigerator truck. An oncoming vehicle was driving too close to the center of the road. The driver of the refrigerator truck swerved to miss the oncoming car and drove onto the shoulder of the road. When he attempted to drive back onto the road, he lost control of the truck and it turned over. Both the driver and passenger wore seatbelts and were not seriously injured.

2. **What were the mistakes**?

a. Inattentive driving by the oncoming vehicle.

b. The Soldier's failed recovery skills to get back onto the highway.

3. **Lessons Learned:**

a. Seatbelts save lives and reduce the severity of injuries.

b. Drivers must be attentive and ensure their vehicle is properly positioned on the highway.

c. Drivers must be familiar with corrective actions to regain control of their vehicle, should they temporarily lose control.

4. Leaders must emphasize to all Soldiers the importance of seatbelts. Also, the method of regaining control of an out-of-control vehicle is unique to the type of vehicle driven. A large truck, for example, handles differently than a car. By compensating accordingly, future accidents like this one may be prevented.

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

MICHAEL D. BARBERO
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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