



8 September 2004



## SAFETY ALERT Soldier Killed in Army Vehicle Crash

1. A Soldier died last Friday afternoon at the Hohenfels Training Area during a HMMWV-recovery operation. The Soldier, who was towing the recovered vehicle with another HMMWV, was descending a steep hill when the two vehicles jackknifed. This caused the towing vehicle to roll on its side and fatally injure the Soldier.
2. This tragedy serves as a reminder that even everyday activities can lead to injury or death, and that hazard identification and risk management must be fundamental to everything we do—both on and off duty. We must always be aware of mission risks, especially now as units return from deployment and prepare for future missions. In all this, effective leadership and supervision of subordinates is our charge.
3. Complacency kills. If any of your tasks have become too “routine,” review them to ensure that shortcuts and “field expedient” procedures are not being used. Be especially cautious if someone tells you, “We do this differently here.” The standard is the same whether we are in garrison, in training, or at war. I expect standards to be reflected in both written and unwritten unit procedures. Effective leadership and supervision will prevent these needless tragedies.
4. “No Loss of Life” is our goal. Each of you is important to the USAREUR Team and the Army mission. Our professional *can do* attitude puts us above other armies of the world, but is not an excuse for relaxed standards. This is about effective leadership and supervision.
5. Ensure that this safety alert is given widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards. I want every Soldier to read this message and make a personal commitment to know and follow standards, identify hazards, and manage risks at all times as we continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL  
General, USA  
Commanding

**ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE!**

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