BELL SENDS #3

On Point For The Nation

USAREUR & 7th Army

April 19, 2003

General Bell sends: **SAFETY ALERT - Rail Operations**

1. Three months ago I published my first BELL SENDS as your commander, laying out my intent and the major deployment risks I foresaw for our soldiers. I was focused on rail safety and remain convinced that it is our number one threat in the deployment process.

2. Last week unfortunately we experienced another tragedy between soldier and train. Our soldier nearly lost his life.

3. Rail operations are inherently dangerous, however with thorough risk assessments and supervision at all levels, tragedies such as this one can be avoided.

4. I expect leaders to take immediate action to review Bell sends: Deployment Safety Message, 31 January 2003 and Army Europe Pamphlet 385-15, Leaders Operational Accident Prevention Guide.

5. I cannot make it any clearer – from the time a train is loading for departure to when it is unloading, soldiers are **forbidden** from climbing onto railcars or the onboard vehicles to check for anything -- security seals or otherwise. Any required clarification in USAREUR regulations / policies will be forthcoming immediately.

6. Ensure widest dissemination of this Safety Alert electronically and on unit bulletin boards. Comply with its requirements.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

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