DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY ARMOR CENTER AND FORT KNOX
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

IMSE-KNX-SO (385)

16 NOV 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, All Units Reporting Directly to This Headquarters
Commanders, Fort Knox Partners in Excellence
Directors and Chiefs, Staff Offices/Departments, This Headquarters

SUBJECT: Fort Knox Privately-Owned Vehicle (POV) Accident Prevention Program

1. References:

a. AR 385-55, Prevention of Motor Vehicle Accidents, 12 March 1987.

b. TRADOC Reg 385-2, TRADOC Safety Program, 27 January 2000.

c. Fort Knox Reg 385-10, The Fort Knox safety Program, 23 April 2004.

2. The fact that Army-wide more Soldiers lose their lives in POV accidents than all other accidents combined is also a fact at Fort Knox. Twenty-seven Fort Knox Soldiers have died in accidents over the last 10 years, 24 were the result of POV accidents. Sixteen of the 24 deaths were caused by one or more of the following: driver inattention, excessive speed, aggressive driving, fatigue, alcohol and drugs, and failure to wear seat belts. Quite simply, we cannot afford this continuing loss of life; my goal is ZERO deaths in POV accidents. This is an attainable goal that was last accomplished in FY 01.

3. The basis of this program is the Army's six-point POV accident prevention program outlined below—my added requirements are in italicized print. Unit POV safety programs must include all types of vehicles (e.g. sedans, pickups, vans, SUVs, and motorcycles) since they each have unique characteristics and require particular skills to operate.

a. **Command Emphasis**. Positive leadership at all levels is imperative. Leader emphasis on POV safety must be unrelenting. Our junior officers and noncommissioned officers see their Soldiers everyday. They should know where their Soldiers go, what they do, and then assert positive influence on how, when, and where they operate their POVs. *Include POV safety issues during quarterly unit safety councils, Soldier's training time, unit formations, pre-holiday safety briefings, and individual personnel counseling sessions.*

b. **Discipline**. Our junior leaders work with their Soldiers daily and know them well. Soldiers sometimes telegraph signals that translate later into accidents. Negative behavior such as traffic offenses, alcohol abuse, misconduct, and poor performance often are indicators of

potential POV accident victims. Identify "at risk" Soldiers, counsel them, take proactive measures to modify their risky behavior. *Two excellent tools available to evaluate and determine "at risk" drivers are the Next Accident Assessment For Individuals and the Next Accident Assessment For Leaders; both are available on the Armor Branch Safety Office's web page (*http://www.knox.army.mil/center/safety/index.htm), *click on the "POV Safety" button. Unit First Sergeants will ensure first-line leaders conduct an assessment on each Soldier in their unit and counsel high risk Soldiers.*

c. **Risk Management**. Use risk management. Identify hazards associated with POV operations, assess the hazards, develop controls and make decisions, implement the controls, and supervise execution. The Director of Army Safety has prepared a POV risk management toolbox for commanders and leaders. This toolbox provides a comprehensive set of tools and controls that have proved successful throughout our Army. The toolbox is available at (http://crc.army.mil). Make it available to leaders at all levels *and ensure they use it. A POV Pre-Trip Risk Assessment will be completed before all long distance leave, vacation, TDY, and PCS trips; use FK Form 5069-E or the electronic assessment at* http://crc.army.mil.

d. **Standards**. Set high and unmistakable standards, and enforce them! Follow Army regulatory traffic standards. Be uncompromising on the use of seatbelts and motorcycle safety equipment. Educate Soldiers on the risks of speed, fatigue, and the use of alcohol. Emphasize the use of designated drivers for social events.

e. **Provide Alternatives**. Provide alternatives to Soldiers driving POVs. Schedule activities on post to keep Soldiers on post and off the road. Consider keeping gyms and other places Soldiers use off duty open later. These same measures also can provide alternatives to alcohol use. Look for transportation alternatives as well. Promote use of alternate transportation methods to POV use. Prominently post public transportation schedules. Where possible, use Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) services to provide buses or vans to transport Soldiers to the places they go when off duty. *DMWR support this initiative with the following: continue to schedule and publish on-post activities; keep clubs, lounges, bowling centers, golf course, gymnasiums, and swimming pools open late on weekends and holidays when the highest percentage of accidents occur off post, publicize hours in the Turret and on Channel 98; provide on-post transportation for UPH guests and patrons of the Leaders Club and Rocker II; provide designated drivers with free soft drinks.*

f. **Commander's Assessment**. Following every fatal and serious injury POV accident, commanders will conduct an assessment of the accident with the involved Soldier's chain-of-command. Determine what happened, why it happened, and how it could have been prevented. Implement corrective and preventive measures. Publicize lessons learned. *The Armor Branch Safety Office will publish a safety bulletin on fatal and serious POV accidents to ensure all Fort Knox personnel are aware of the facts and actions required to prevent like accidents. The Fort Knox Fatality Review Board will convene within 14 days of a POV fatality to ensure*

investigations are conducted, identify causes or contributing factors, and determine corrective actions.

4. Locally, the following key components are added. First is the Fort Knox POV Task Force that will convene quarterly in conjunction with the Installation Prevention Council (IPC). The purpose of the task force is to analyze POV accident trends, identify and review local traffic problems, and establish special safety campaigns for identified POV problem areas. The POV Task Force membership is the same as the IPC.

5. In addition to the six-point program outlined above the following requirements are added and will be implemented by all Fort Knox units and organizations are:

a. Ensure all newly assigned military personnel view the videotape "Highway Safety," available from the Armor Branch Safety Office, within 30 days of assignment.

b. Inspect POVs belonging to military personnel before all holiday weekends, TDY travel, PCS moves, and vacation trips; use FK Form 4650-E (POV Inspection Checklist). This inspection can be conducted by any competent person selected by the chain-of-command.

c. Conduct quarterly POV safety briefings that emphasize seasonal and local driving hazards. In addition, conduct safety briefings before long holiday weekends, TDY travel, PCS moves, and vacation trips.

d. Implement a military designated driver program that ensures safe transportation for personnel drinking or fatigued. First Sergeants will maintain a roster of unit designated drivers.

e. Enforce pre-trip planning, particularly for long drives. Use mapping programs available on the internet, e.g., http://www.mapsonus.com. Check weather and road conditions before long trips. Nationwide traffic and road closure information is available at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/index.htm.

f. Recognize units and individuals for significant positive contributions in POV safety.

h. Ensure motorcycle operators attend the Army Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course; phone 4-4306 to enroll in a class. Military personnel are not authorized to ride a motorcycle, either on or off post, until they complete this training; DoD civilians cannot ride on post until they have completed the training. Motorcycle riders will wear all protective gear required in reference 1c above.

6. Preventing POV accidents requires a total team effort. It starts at the "battle buddy" level and ends at the senior leader level, and everyone in between must be a player. Bottomline is that saving lives is everybody's responsibility. Contact the Armor Branch Safety Office, phone 4-4920, for necessary assistance.

ROBERT M. WILLIAMS
Major General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
A

CF:
DCG, USAARMC