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CALIFORNIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SAFETY MATTERS

STATE SAFETY OFFICE

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Accident Data: 1st Quarter CY 2003

Accidents reported through Incident Report number
03-0165

- 39 *Motor Vehicle Accidents*
- 13 *Personal Injury Injury/Illness*
- 7 *POV*
- 11 *Injury*
- 17 *GSA/Rentals*
- 2 *Illness*
- 15 *AMV (Army Motor Vehicle)*

It is interesting to note that 24 of the motor vehicle accidents involve situations where the military member either: hit a stationary object, hit a parked car, rear-end a car, or side swiped another vehicle..... that is embarrassing.

Accident Brief/Safety Tip

Vehicle accidents continue to be the number one accident. So far no one has been killed, but a lot of equipment has been damaged, and money wasted. Most of the vehicles involved were essentially sedans – the same type of vehicle that people drive every day. Virtually everyone has a drivers license, so they are trained and experienced at the task of driving a vehicle. So what is it? What is it about getting into a government vehicle that lends itself to being involved in an accident? Here are a few possibilities and suggestions:

- It is a different car after all. Each car is a little different. So, take a minute to familiarize yourself with the vehicle before taking off.
- Work. People get rushed. Don't. Take your time and have a successful mission instead of a needless accident.
- Fatigue. Goes along with work and being rushed. So plan ahead. Make allowances for delays, they will happen. Don't attempt to do too much all at once.
- Situational Awareness. Many of the accidents seem to have "come out of nowhere." Remember, it is the one you *do not see* that gets you. Take a little pride in your ability to know what is going around you – don't be oblivious. Anticipate events before they happen, and be proactive. Because *yes*, it is true that many other people on the road are incompetent and

oblivious. Understand this, and drive accordingly. Do not be one of the oblivious ones.

Near Misses

This section is provided to give people a chance to write of their own experiences with a "near miss."

Most accidents actually do not happen – they *almost* happen. You know the feeling, the flush in your face as your adrenal glands pump adrenaline through your system after a near miss situation. So send your experience, and what you learned from it, up to the Safety Office and we will include it here.

Accident Reporting

What should you do if you have an accident?

Report the accident immediately to your unit. Fill out the appropriate Incident Report and Abbreviated Ground Accident Report (AGAR). The AGAR must be processed through your unit chain of command and received by the State Safety Office within 5 days after the accident. Forms and instructions are available on the *Ground Safety* home page

Safety Visits to Units

Starting April 2003 IDT, the State Safety Office will do unannounced Safety Visits to units. This is to assist units jump start their safety program and provide guidance.

Safety Training

The State Safety Office provides training opportunities for Safety Personnel. Each year the State Safety Office has Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training and a Ground Safety Course for 1st Line Supervisors. There will be on-site quarterly training available this year for M-Day safety personnel. Check here for dates and locations.

State Safety Office

If you have any safety matters that need attention, please call the State Safety Officer, LTC Nickey C. Reed at (916) 854-3039/ DSN 466-3039 or call the Assistant State Safety Officer, MAJ Renee' T. MacDonald (916) 854-3036/DSN 466-3036

Place this publication on your unit bulletin board for all unit members to view