



Commanders, Senior Leaders and Senior Safety Directors,

I would like to draw your attention to a spike in pedestrian mishaps. We've lost seven Soldiers in the first 100 days of this fiscal year on top of a record low of two pedestrian fatalities in FY16.

Two weeks ago, a 57-year-old New York Army National Guard master sergeant was struck and killed by a sedan while walking during pre-dawn hours under an interstate bypass in the vicinity of Latham, New York. Two days into the new calendar year, a 26-year-old private was struck from behind by a sedan and killed as he walked alongside a roadway. In early December, a 33-year-old staff sergeant was killed by a sedan as he and his wife crossed a street. In late October, a 24-year-old sergeant was struck and killed while attempting to cross a four-lane road while running with a fellow Soldier. One day prior, a 25-year-old sergeant inadvertently left a personal belonging on her vehicle and drove away. After realizing her mistake, she stopped the vehicle and was attempting to retrieve the item in the roadway when she was struck and killed by a passing motorist. In mid-October, a 21-year-old specialist was struck and killed on a rural Kentucky highway in the pre-dawn hours. Lastly, while on leave, a 26-year-old private was struck and killed by a vehicle while attempting to cross a roadway on foot.

All but one of these senseless accidents occurred during the hours of darkness when the Soldiers were off duty. Two involved alcohol. Beyond that, the environment and situations were all different. What appears to be common in each fatality, however, is every one of the Soldiers failed to recognize the hazardous and deadly situations they put themselves in.

To heighten awareness and prevention, I recommend you encourage engaged leaders to coach our Soldiers to always take the following actions when walking or running on or around roadways:

- Always walk/run against traffic
- Wear bright, reflective clothing at night
- Always look both ways when crossing a roadway, then look left again before you step into the road
- Stay out of the road unless crossing it
- Cross only at designation locations

I offer the attached handout, which your leaders can use to engage our Soldiers and raise awareness.

Jeffrey A. Farnsworth  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding