



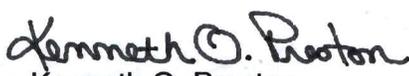
Leaders:

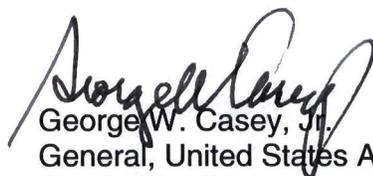
Thanks to the leadership of our Army Soldiers, Families and Civilians, FY10 was a record year for lowering the number of accidents in our Army. During the past 30 years, we have transformed a force that lost an average of 415 Soldiers annually to accidents into one of the safest institutions in the world, losing 180 Soldiers in FY10, which is one of our lowest rates on record.

During the first years of our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, our accidental fatality totals and rates steadily increased. However, from FY06 through FY10, Army leaders dramatically reduced accidental fatalities. This was due—in large part—to direct leader engagement, coupled with aggressive application of composite risk management. Leaders, Soldiers and Families taking care of each other, both on and off-duty, were also key contributors to this improvement.

Last year, nearly 72 percent of accidental deaths occurred off-duty, which presents a real challenge for our leaders. Risky behavior and indiscipline (especially involving privately owned vehicles and motorcycle) are cited as contributing factors in the overwhelming majority of these cases. And many were lost because of a failure to wear a seat belt or helmet when operating a vehicle, drinking and driving, or speeding.

This year, we ask each of you—as leaders—to make a renewed commitment to the safety for your Soldiers. Soldier safety is vital to maintaining our combat edge, restoring balance and sustaining the health of our force. Nine years of sustained war have demonstrated that no Soldier fights alone. Like combat, safety is also a team effort that requires everyone be engaged 24 hours a day/7 days a week. With your support, we are confident that 2011 will be another banner year for our force. Thank you for your continued commitment to keeping our Army both safe and strong!


Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army


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