

## **Army Centralized Accident Investigation Teams**

### **What is it?**

The Army's centralized accident investigation teams, assigned to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center, Fort Rucker, Ala., consist of military and Civilian personnel highly trained in investigative techniques and who deploy worldwide to sites of Class A accidents. Organizations are required to immediately report serious accidents to the USACR/Safety Center, the Army's proponent for accident investigations. Based on the accident's severity and other initial information, the commanding general, USACR/Safety Center, determines whether to deploy a CAI team or recommend a local-level installation accident investigation. Factors considered during this deliberation include possible systemic issues revealed in the initial report, feedback from leadership in the accident unit and applicability of the accident across the Army.

### **What has Army Safety done?**

Accident investigation boards, led by the Army's CAI teams, collect data, interview witnesses, review historical records and develop pre- and post-accident timelines to reconstruct the accident. Team members analyze all available information and produce findings and recommendations for dissemination to the accident unit and leaders Armywide to help prevent future accidents. All investigations seek to answer three primary questions: what happened during the accident sequence, why the accident happened and what can be done to prevent similar accidents in the future.

### **What does Army Safety have planned for the future?**

The Army's CAI teams bring important information back to the USACR/Safety Center after every investigation, and that information is then forwarded to commands and formations across the Army. This process has been proven to enhance safety programs at all levels and sets the foundation for future success.

### **Why is this important to the Army?**

Maintaining combat resources is vital to successful mission completion. When accidents occur, we owe it to the victims, their Families and Soldiers everywhere to determine what happened and how we can work to prevent additional occurrences under similar circumstances.

### **Resources:**

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center home page  
<https://safety.army.mil>

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