



20-045



Sports-Related Mishap Claims One Soldier's Life

A 45-year-old Staff Sergeant assigned to Fort Gordon, Georgia, died in an off-duty bicycling mishap 29 April 2020 in Evans, Georgia, at 0530 local. The Soldier was riding on an approved trail when the mishap occurred. He was found lying on the ground by a motorist and transported to the local hospital, where he was evaluated and admitted to the intensive care unit with a skull fracture and bruising to the brain. The Soldier was medically sedated and monitored by the attending neurosurgeon. Five days later, the care team attempted to bring him out of sedation, but he did not respond well. The following day, the Soldier underwent surgery, but his condition deteriorated. He died from his injuries two days later. The Soldier was wearing a reflective shirt and vest, but no helmet.

Since FY16, the Army has lost an average of five Soldiers a year to off-duty sports-related mishaps. This was the first off-duty sports-related mishap of FY20 and below the number of similar fatalities from this time last year.

PLRs are intended to be used as an engagement tool for leaders to discuss the hazards and trends impacting Soldier safety and readiness. The PLR contains only basic information but provides sufficient background to allow leaders an opportunity to communicate risk at the Soldier level. More detailed information on this and other Army mishaps can be found on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center website at <https://safety.army.mil/lessonslearned>.

To access current U.S. Army accident statistics and reports, visit <https://safety.army.mil/STATISTICS>.

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Additional U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center PLR resources can be found on the USACRC website at <https://safety.army.mil/PLR>.

