



21-017



POW Mishap Claims One Soldier's Life

A Staff Sergeant assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, died in a privately owned weapons (POW) mishap 14 November 2020 in Killeen, Texas. Witnesses stated the Soldier was handling another Soldier's POW at a party when a discharged round struck him in the head. The Soldier was taken by ambulance to the local hospital and underwent emergency surgery, but later died from his injuries.

Since FY16, the Army has lost an average of four Soldiers a year to POW mishaps. This mishap is the first fatal POW mishap of FY21.

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>.

