



21-027

Off-Duty POW Mishap Claims One Soldier's Life

A Specialist assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, died in a privately owned weapons mishap 8 January 2021 in Killeen, Texas, at 2130 local. The Soldier was reportedly showing his shotgun to two other Soldiers at an off-post residence and pointed it at himself in a joking manner. One of the Soldiers told him that he shouldn't do that with the weapon. After stating that the shotgun was on safe, it discharged unintentionally, striking the Soldier. He was pronounced dead at the scene. It is unknown at this time if alcohol was a contributing factor. The mishap is under investigation.

Since FY16, the Army has lost an average of four Soldiers a year to POW mishaps. This tragedy was the second fatal off-duty 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>.

