



21-044

Pedestrian/Non-Motorist Mishap Claims One Soldier's Life

A Soldier assigned to Fort Riley, Kansas, died in a pedestrian mishap 18 March 2021 near the installation at 0510 local. It is suspected that the Soldier was struck by a vehicle when he was walking eastbound in the westbound lane of I-70. The Soldier was reportedly released from extra duty about 2300 on 17 March, and did not report to duty the next day. A former Fort Riley Soldier stated that the Soldier came to his off-post residence about 2330, where they talked and consumed alcohol, before leaving in the early hours.

Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) reported the remains of an unidentified individual located on I-70 slightly east of milepost 302 at approximately 0510 on 18 March. At 1036 hours, Fort Riley Directorate of Emergency Services was notified by the Geary County Sheriff's Office, Geary County, Kansas, that the fingerprints obtained from the remains were matched the a Soldier assigned to the unit. No personal effects or identification were located on or near the body, with the exception of a cellphone believed to belong to another Fort Riley Soldier assigned to the same unit. The body was later identified to be that of the missing Soldier. An autopsy of the remains will be completed at Frontier Forensics, Kansas City, Kansas. An investigation is ongoing by the local authorities in conjunction with the Fort Riley Criminal Investigations Division. The unit and safety POC are waiting for local authorities to release information.

Since 2016, the Army has lost an average of seven Soldiers a year to pedestrian/non-motorist mishaps. This mishap is the second pedestrian/non-motorist fatality 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>.

