



21-052



Privately Owned Weapons Mishap Claims One Soldier's Life

A Specialist assigned to Fort Riley, Kansas, died in a privately owned weapons (POW) mishap 5 April 2021 in Manhattan, Kansas, at 1330 local. The Soldier was cleaning his POW when he unintentionally discharged a round that struck him in the upper abdomen. During transport to the local hospital, the Soldier died due to his injuries. At this time, it is unknown if alcohol was involved. 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 third fatal POW fatality of FY21.

You can manage your risk with POWs if you always THINK weapons safety!

- Treat every weapon as if it is loaded.
- Handle every weapon with care.
- Identify the target before you fire.
- Never point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.
- Keep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.

The USACRC website contains numerous resources to address POW safety: <https://safety.army.mil/OFF-DUTY/Privately-Owned-Weapons>

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>.

