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PMV-4 Mishap Claims Two Soldiers' Lives

A Sergeant First Class assigned to Medical Degree Preparatory University in Maryland, died in a PMV-4 mishap 26 September 2021 in Flintstone, Maryland at 1418 local. The Soldier was driving his Volkswagon Jetta while traveling eastbound on Interstate 68, east of Pleasant Valley Road. He struck the rear of a semi-tractor trailer as it was traveling in the same direction. The Soldier was pronounced deceased on scene. The passenger of the Soldier's vehicle sustained serious injuries and was transported by the State Police to Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, West Virginia. Unknown at this time if speed or alcohol was a factor. The Maryland State Police is currently conducting the investigation.

Since 2016, the Army has lost an average of 36 Soldiers a year to off-duty PMV-4 mishaps. This mishap was the 44th PMV-4 fatality of FY21.

Stay Alert – Avoid Distractions

Distractions are everywhere today and becoming more and more difficult to avoid. Remember that, as a pedestrian, your eyes and ears are your best tools for keeping safe. **Stay alert and watch out.**

- **Put down your phone.** Smartphones and handheld electronic devices are a daily part of life, but they take your eyes off of the road and distract your attention.
- **Don't wear headphones.** Your ears will tell you a lot about what is happening around you – be sure to use them.

1. Never drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
2. Avoid distractions while operating a vehicle.
3. Your focus should be on the task of driving safely.
4. Pay attention to your surroundings especially if you're unfamiliar with the area you're driving in.
5. Focus as far to your front as possible using peripheral vision to scan for obstacles.
6. Maintain the posted speed limit.

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>.

