



August 2012

SAFETY ALERT

Activity: Operating a Privately Owned Vehicle (POV)

Results: One Fatality

One Soldier was killed in a single vehicle POV accident on "One Community Road" in vicinity of Range 132, Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany. At approximately 1945 hours on 20 August, 2012, a Soldier was killed in a single vehicle accident in the vicinity of Grafenwoehr. The 20 year old PVT (recent AIT graduate) had been in country for approximately 30 days. He was driving a late 90s BMW that belonged to a fellow Soldier. Initial reports indicate that the Soldier may have been in an emotional state earlier in the day. At the time of the accident, while traveling at a high rate of speed, the Soldier failed to negotiate a curve and crashed head-on into a pre-positioned concrete tank caltrop barricade (Dragon's Tooth). Upon impact with the barricade the vehicle became airborne and struck numerous tree tops, the roof of a range building, a radio antenna, and finally came to rest in a pasture. Survivable living space was compromised and the Soldier had to be extracted from the vehicle. Life saving efforts were initiated on the scene, but were unsuccessful. The cause of the accident is suspected to be excessive speed and/or driver distraction. It appears that the Soldier was not wearing a seatbelt. There were no other personnel in the vehicle. [Preliminary Information Subject to Official Investigation]



Hazards

- Operating vehicle at high rate of speed
- Personal distractions
- Unrestrained occupant

Controls

- Reduce vehicle speed / maintain situational awareness
- Never drive when emotionally charged
- Always use seatbelts

This Safety Bulletin is based on best preliminary information. The accident investigation will determine actual causes

STRONG SOLDIERS, STRONG TEAMS!

**USAREUR Safety
DSN: 370-9044**

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