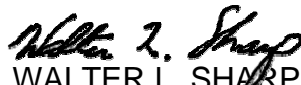




12 January 2009

Death of a U.S. Service Member

1. This week we lost a USFK Soldier as a result of an off-duty accident that occurred while the Soldier was crossing a street off post. This is the second off-duty pedestrian-vehicle fatality in six months. In total, we have lost five service members in the past six months. Added to these are two suicides, including a family member. I find the loss of seven service members, civilians, or family members alarming!
2. These tragic losses impact families, weaken morale, disrupt unit cohesiveness, and reduce mission readiness. Leaders – corporals to generals – even while we mourn the loss of these men and women, we must direct our energy toward the prevention of accidents and the well-being of our service members, civilian employees, and family members.
3. I charge each of you to press hard through education, awareness, supervision, and risk management to ensure that every USFK service member and civilian understands the need to include safety in everything they do, whether at work or at home. As leaders, we need to show our subordinates that we mean business when it comes to enforcing the rules of safety, while at the same time showing them that we care.
4. Leaders must take immediate action to become personally involved in preventing accidents and suicides. Visit our USFK Homepage to review my policy letters in these important areas. Be alert for signs of someone in trouble and ensure that anyone who needs help gets it immediately.
5. Our success can be defined only as “No Loss of Life.” To help achieve that success, give this safety alert the widest possible dissemination; electronically and by posting it on unit bulletins boards.
6. We go together!


WALTER L. SHARP
General, US Army
Commander

FREEDOM'S FRONTIER!

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