



ANOTHER SOLDIER LOST

UNINTENDED/NEGLIGENT DISCHARGES CLAIM SOLDIERS' LIVES:

A 26-year-old Soldier on PCS leave was handling a .45-caliber handgun in the presence of friends when he discharged a round that struck him in the head. The Soldier had been consuming alcohol.

A 29-year-old Soldier was handling his pistol in his apartment with another Soldier when it discharged. The Soldier was holding the pistol to his temple when he discharged a round. He was pronounced dead at a local medical center. Both Soldiers had been consuming alcohol.

A 31-year-old Soldier was handling his newly purchased handgun while sitting in a vehicle with three other Soldiers at an off-post residence. The Soldier fired a round that struck him in the head. He was evacuated to a local medical center and pronounced dead later that morning.

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PRESENTED BY **KNOWLEDGE**

ARMED AND HAMMERED

We're bombarded with messages informing us we shouldn't drink and drive because alcohol impairs judgment and slows reaction time, which can make our vehicles deadly weapons. So why do we continue to see Soldiers consuming alcohol and handling firearms, which are designed to be deadly weapons without the addition of alcohol?

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HERE IT COMES and you ready to own a gun?

- treat every weapon as if it's 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.

READY ... OR NOT?

Ready ... or not? is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their "readiness" for what lies ahead - the known as well as the unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of these events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are YOU ready ... or not?

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DON'T LET THIS BE YOU!

From FY09 to FY13, 16 Soldiers lost their lives to off-duty unintended/negligent discharge accidents with privately owned weapons.

The Soldier most commonly involved in a fatal negligent discharge accident is a male specialist or sergeant between the ages of 21 and 26.

The majority of these accidents occur between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. Alcohol is often a factor.

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YOU'VE GOT A SHOT AT SAFETY

Not all weapons operate in the same manner. Proficiency with your assigned military weapon does not make you an expert on all weapons. If you are handling a new weapon, read the owner's manual carefully and take a safety class.

Privately owned weapons accidents commonly occur in social settings. If you see someone handling a weapon while under the influence of alcohol or in an unsafe manner, take action.

THINK Weapons Safety:

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Handle every weapon with care.

Identify the target before you fire.

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Keep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.

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