

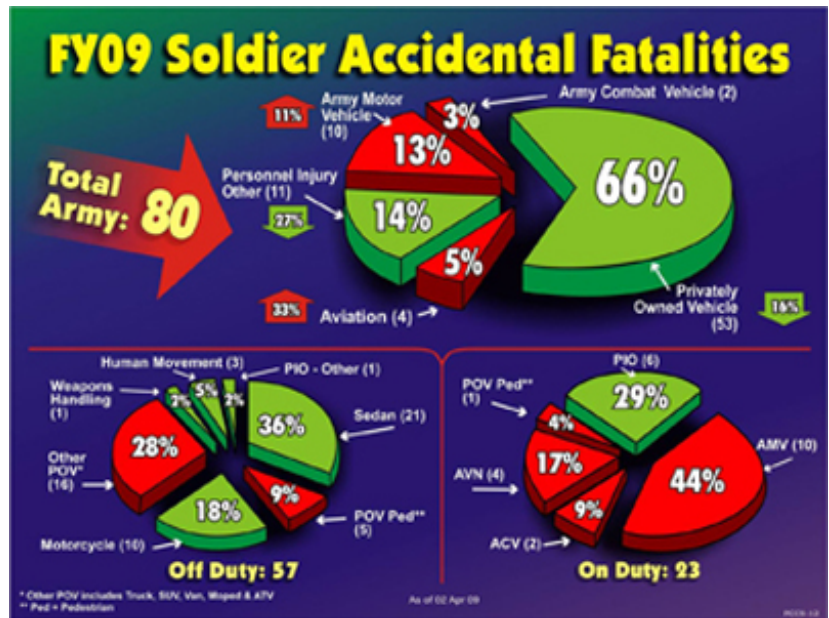
War College students learn Army safety goals

Spc. Jennifer Rick, Army War College Public Affairs Office

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April 7, 2009 – U.S. Army War College students were given the opportunity to hear first-hand the Army's level of safety and accident fatalities during a brief by Brig. Gen. William Wolf, director of Army Safety, Commanding General, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

Wolf compared the number of off-duty Soldier deaths in the last few years. Compared to Fiscal year 2007, the Army has seen a 27 percent reduction in off-duty fatalities. The number of water-related deaths even saw an 80 percent decrease.



The statistics aren't all good though – FY08 had an 18 percent increase in off-duty driving fatalities, especially accidents involving motorcycles, which went up by 34 percent.

One of the biggest causes of Soldier deaths is personally owned vehicles and motorcycles.

- 33 percent of sedan deaths are leaders (sergeant through colonel)
- 74 percent are 18 to 24 years old
- 43 percent did not wear seat belts
- 65 percent of motorcycle deaths are leaders (sergeant through major)
- 37 of 51 are sportbikes
- 28 of 51 are single vehicle accidents

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Brig. Gen. William Wolf, director of Army Safety, Commanding General, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center speaks to Army War College students in Bliss Hall April 7. Photo by

Thomas Zimmerman.

"We very much care about the loss of our Soldiers," Wolf said. "They are the only thing that cannot be replaced. These men and women will do anything for each other in combat, but we need to

keep them safe out of combat as well."

Goals for FY09

The plan for FY09 focuses on continuing to improve safety climate and culture, reducing off-duty loss by 20 percent and capturing the best practices from the field and sharing them with the rest of the force.

Participants in Carlisle Barracks' Motorcycle Safety Course eagerly wait their turn to practice safe driving in a parking lot on post April 5. The safety course is required for anyone who rides a motorcycle or scooter on post. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Rick.



For more information, go to <https://safety.army.mil/>. The site offers tools such as the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS), the Ground Risk Assessment Tool, Range & Weapons Safety Toolbox, Leader's Corner and the Family Engagement Kit. Information can also be found in "Knowledge", the Army Safety magazine, and at its Facebook, Twitter and Myspace pages.