



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

Don't Gamble



Some friends of this soldier came by his room for a going-away party on a Friday night. Around 10:30 p.m., after drinking eight cans of beer, he told his friends he wanted to call it a night so he could get some sleep before starting out next morning for the 800-mile drive to his home.

On Saturday afternoon he visited with friends around town and attended an impromptu party where he consumed a little alcohol. Shortly before midnight he left the gathering, saying he was going to visit a girlfriend who lived close by.

His whereabouts in the next two or three hours could not be traced, but at 2:45 a.m. Sunday on an overpass, he lost control of his car and drove through an aluminum barrier protecting a pedestrian walkway. He took out 75 feet of the barrier, left the bridge and fell almost 40 feet to the road below. The vehicle rolled several times, ejecting the soldier, who was fatally injured. Local police estimated his speed on the overpass at 75 mph. At the time of the crash he had not slept for at least 36 hours.

This 19-year-old had received adequate guidance before his trip from the safety NCO, who stressed the dangers of exceeding personal limitations while driving. A few weeks earlier, he had attended a briefing by a state trooper about speed and driving after drinking. Obviously, none of this had reached him. He was not wearing his safety belt either.