

108th ADA BDE GETS A CRASH COURSE ON SAFETY

Story and Photo by Spc. Chad Seibold / 108th ADA PAO

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – On Nov. 25th 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade will conduct a Safety Stand-Down to focus on educating Soldiers on home, tactical and specifically defensive driving and privately-owned vehicle safety.

“POVs are the leading cause of Soldier non combat related fatalities throughout the Army”, said Col. Christopher Spillman, the 108th ADA BDE Commander. “The first priority is to ensure leaders in this brigade do everything possible to educate their Soldiers on POV safety”.

David Martin, the brigade’s safety officer, is all about the numbers, stating emphatically, “Statics show that seatbelts, when properly worn, save lives.” According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, seat belts are approximately 50 percent effective at preventing fatalities and save about 15,000 lives each year.

Dave Martin, the brigade’s safety officer, points out that, “During a crash there are multiple impacts that occur; the first impact is of the vehicle striking an object, the second impact is occupants of the vehicle, when not properly restrained, being thrown around inside or ejected from the vehicle.”



FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Lt. Col. Serafin Meno, the 3rd of the 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment Commander is properly buckled into the Seatbelt Convincer and then sent sliding down a set of rails to impact the bumper bringing the seat to a violent and abrupt stop simulating a 5 to 10 mph crash.

As of 17 November 2009, there have been 16 Army personnel fatalities since the beginning of the fiscal year according to the Army Safety Program Risk Management Information System. That equates to one death every three days from a POV accident. Last year that average was one every 3.3 days or 110 fatalities.

Recently, the brigade purchased a Seatbelt Convincer to demonstrate the effectiveness of seatbelt usage by simulating an impact at 5 to 10 mph.

This simulator demonstrates how being properly secured keeps occupants restrained within the occupant's seat during a wreck, thus greatly lowering the risk of a life threatening injury.

"First and foremost, we are dedicated to the safety of each Soldier in the Spartan Brigade," said Spillman. "Soldiers are the most valuable resource of the Spartan Brigade, and we are committed to protecting them."