

# SAFETY ALERT

## USARC SAFETY SENDS

### FATAL MOTOR VEHICLE MISHAP



STOCK PHOTO

At approximately 0722 EST on 28 July 2026, a Soldier assigned to the 200th Military Police Command was fatally injured in a non-duty, motor vehicle accident near Waldo, Ohio while adjacent to a disabled vehicle on the side of the road. The Soldier was struck by another vehicle which veered off the roadway and struck the disabled vehicle prior to striking the Soldier. The Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating the incident.

Over the last five years, private motor vehicle mishaps accounted for over **79%** of the Army Reserve on-duty, off-duty and non-duty fatal mishaps.

This tragic incident highlights the persistent and severe risks our Soldiers face on the road.

#### Safety Guidance:

- **Get Off the Road Completely:** If a vehicle begins to fail or experiences a mechanical issue, maneuver it as far off the travel lanes as possible, onto the shoulder. Avoid stopping in active lanes or narrow shoulders with limited clearance.
- **Maximize Visibility:** Immediately activate hazard warning flashers (four-way flashers) and interior dome lights if it is dark.
- **The Golden Rule:** The highway shoulder is an extremely high-threat environment. Never exit the vehicle unless it is absolutely necessary (e.g., the vehicle is actively on fire or unable to be moved away from imminent danger of being struck from behind).
- **Buckle Up While Waiting:** If staying with the vehicle, keep seatbelts fastened. If a parked vehicle is struck from behind by an oncoming car, remaining belted significantly reduces the risk of fatal ejection or secondary impact injuries inside the cabin.
- **Call for Professional Help:** Immediately dial 911 or roadside assistance. Let professional emergency responders or tow operators with proper high-visibility blocking vehicles handle the hazard.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

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