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Group aims to reduce Army accidental loss

By Chris Frazier

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. (Sept. 25, 2007) – Local members of a Soldier support organization met recently with the Director of Army Safety to discuss how they can take a more proactive role in helping reduce Army accidental losses.

Brig. Gen. Bill Forrester, commanding general of the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center, told members of Army Family Team Building that the Army is still losing too many Soldiers to needless accidents such as privately owned vehicle and motorcycle crashes. In addition to the many programs the Army already has in place to help mitigate these losses, Forrester said the USACRC is working to develop a program for AFTB to use to assist in the effort.

“As part of our Army team, Families are one of our communicators for safety awareness,” Forrester said.

AFTB is a volunteer-led organization that provides training and knowledge to spouses and Family members to support the total Army effort. AFTB’s mission is to educate and train all of the Army in knowledge, skills and behaviors designed to prepare Army Families to move successfully into the future.

Currently, there are 221 active AFTB programs worldwide with more than 20,000 volunteers and paid staff. Forrester said he believes AFTB and other Family support organizations could be a force multiplier by helping turn the accidental loss arrow downward.

“Families,” Forrester said, “are a powerful influence in our Soldiers’ lives.”



Director of Army Safety Brig. Gen. Bill Forrester discusses the role of Families in Army accident reduction with members of the Fort Rucker chapter of the Army Family Team Building organization. Photo by Kami Lisenby