

Soldier killed in Fort Hood tank exercise

By **CLAIRE OSBORN**
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A 23-year-old soldier was killed and three soldiers were injured Monday when a tank they were riding in flipped over after rolling into a ditch during a training exercise at Fort Hood.

Second Lt. Thomas L. Witt was taken by helicopter to Darnell Army Community Hospital, where he died at 7:35 a.m. Witt had been assigned to Fort Hood since December and had been in the Army for 10 months.

The three other people in the tank were treated for minor injuries and released from the hospital. All of the soldiers are members of the 3rd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Division.

Maj. Terry O'Rourke said the tank involved in the accident was an M1. The tank, the army's main armored fighting vehicle, was used in Operation Desert Storm.

The tank turned over about 6 a.m. near Royalty Ridge Road, one mile west of Old Georgetown Road on Fort Hood.

It was not clear who was driving the tank when the accident happened. The cause was under investigation.

O'Rourke said about 500 soldiers were involved in the training exercise, which was designed to hone their skills in maneuvering and driving tanks.

The tanks weigh about 60 tons each. Fort Hood has approximately 600 of the tanks, O'Rourke said.

Witt's survivors include his parents, Thomas and Marlene Witt of Severn, Md.

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