

Published: 05.20.2007

2 killed in 3-car crash likely due to street race

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ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Two people were killed, including an 18-year-old Fort Huachuca soldier, and three others were injured in a three-vehicle collision early Saturday in Tucson.

The accident, which occurred around 2:40 a.m. on East Grant Road near North Sparkman Boulevard, likely was caused by a street race between the soldier, whose name has not been released, and another driver who left the scene, said Sgt. Mark Robinson, a Tucson Police Department spokesman.

The soldier and his passenger, 20-year-old Ashley Bernal, who had a Huachuca City mailing address, were killed.

Witnesses gave police the following account of the crash:

A 2001 Pontiac Firebird carrying the soldier and Bernal was racing a dark-colored sedan eastbound on Grant.

The sedan passed the Firebird using the two-way left-hand turn lane.

The sedan cut back in front of the Firebird, and the soldier lost control and spun into the westbound lanes of Grant where the car was hit on the driver's side by a 1992 Acura Integra.

The Firebird spun again as a result of the impact and was struck on the passenger side by a 2002 Ford Taurus.

Both occupants of the Firebird, which is believed to have been going about 100 mph, were pronounced dead at the scene, Robinson said.

The 29-year-old driver of the Acura and a 30-year-old passenger suffered minor injuries as did the 55-year-old driver of the Taurus.

It appeared as though everyone was wearing seat belts, he added. No citations had been issued as of Saturday evening.

The sedan that was initially racing with the Firebird continued east on Grant Road, and police are looking for that car, Robinson said.

No information was released on the soldier, who is from out of state, but was stationed at Fort Huachuca, southeast of Tucson. A Fort Huachuca spokesman said the name would not be released until 24 hours after his family has been notified.

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