



SEMPER SAFE



“Get off your cell phone and drive!!!”

We know it is wrong, but yet we still do it. Talking and texting while driving on base. It is illegal to talk or text and drive in the state of North Carolina. What will it take for Marines, Sailors, and Civilian employees to get the message? The most important responsibility of the driver is to operate their motor vehicle safely. Driving requires full attention and focus. Cell phone use can distract drivers, risking injury to themselves and others. Therefore, the safest course of action is to refrain from using a cell phone while driving. Sounds simple doesn't it!

During the last week in April, the MCIEAST- MCB Camp Lejeune Safety Department conducted a short field observation of traffic during the morning hours and discovered an alarming number of drivers talking or texting while driving in a short period time. 42 drivers were noticed not complying with the Base Order P5560.2N Motor Vehicle and Traffic Regulations.

Have you ever been stuck in traffic and it seems to take forever to get on or off base? You then pass a mishap or fender-bender, and the most likely cause of was texting or talking while driving. Something to think about before you pick up that cell phone!

A study performed at the University of Toronto focusing on cell phones found that on-the-road chatter quadrupled the chances of an mishap – the same probability as DRIVING DRUNK. Warning signs of a driver using their cell phone include: a driver making hand gestures, sitting at a green light, weaving in the lane, or driving at an unusually slow speed.

December 1st, 2009, a law passed making it illegal to text while driving. Specifically, the new law makes it an infraction to manually enter letters or text in a mobile telephone as a means of communicating with another person or to read any email or text message transmitted to the cell phone or stored in the cell phone. Violators could face a \$100 fine, plus court costs. To lessen your chance of having a mishap, follow these tips:

- Consider turning your phone off, putting it on silent or vibrate before starting the vehicle.
- Pull over to a safe place and put the vehicle in “Park” if a call must be made or received while on the road.
- Utilize a hands-free device, a feature that is included or available with most of today's cell phones that permits a driver to use the phone without lifting or holding the phone.
- Remember, operators of personal and government vehicles on USMC installations cannot use cell phones while a vehicle is in operation.

Commanders and Supervisors: In an effort to reduce an increasing negative trend, military police will be focusing on those who drive and use cell phones in an unsafe manner. The goal is to remind Marines, Sailors and Civilians of their responsibility to make smart decisions, especially while operating vehicles on or off-duty. Ensure your personnel know the rules and drive safely. For more information contact your Unit Safety Officer or your Base Safety Representative.

As Marines, Sailors and Civil Servants we live by our ethos. So think before you jeopardize the safety of yourself, your fellow Marines, Sailors, civilian employees or family members, and remember SEMPER SAFE!