



# **SEMPER SAFE**



**“Don’t be a victim this holiday season...prevent impaired driving!”**

Motorists are facing an epidemic of death on our roadways, and tragically many of the fatalities and serious injuries could have been prevented. It is estimated that over 40 percent of all fatalities occurring on our nations roads are caused by alcohol-impaired drivers. 34,080 people were killed in 2012 in motor vehicle traffic accidents. This number does not include the tens of thousands of people seriously injured or suffered permanent disabling injuries. According to the Naval Safety Center, the Marine Corps alone lost 31 personnel in motor vehicle accidents in FY13. The Marine Corps lost another 15 personnel on motorcycles, and 8 off duty and recreational activities. The fact is that too many lives are lost each year to a tragedy that can be avoided. This trend is unacceptable and must be corrected.

Follow these tips to and help reduce these tragic numbers.

- If you are going to drink alcohol, do not drive. Designate a non-drinking driver prior to the event.
- Support the strengthening and vigorous enforcement of impaired-driving laws.
- Young drivers are at particular risk to be involved in alcohol-related crashes. Remember, if you’re under 21, DO NOT consume any alcohol. If you are over 21, do not drink and drive and educate yourself and fellow Marines/Sailors on state laws pertaining to DWI’s.
- Your best defense against a drunk driver is wearing your vehicle safety belt; ensure it is always used every trip, every time.
- Volunteer to be a designated driver and don’t hesitate to encourage others to volunteer.
- Never condone or approve of excessive alcohol consumption. Intoxicated behavior is deadly!
- Don't ever let your friends drive drunk. Take their keys, have them spend the night, have them ride home with someone else, call a cab, or do whatever else is necessary - but don't let them drive!
- If you are impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit, or get a sober friend or family member to drive you.
- When driving avoid use of medications that may impair your judgment and awareness. Also avoid driving while fatigued. Take frequent breaks or rotate drivers periodically.
- Remember – *Marines/Sailors Don’t Let Friends Drive Impaired.*

**Commanders and Leaders:** Ensure your personnel are educated on the dangers of impaired driving and they are aware and are aware of the unit “Arrive Alive” programs as necessary to prevent mishaps. These fatalities can only be reduced with the help of our leaders. Educate your personnel and ensure they have a plan to set them up for success.

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