



SEMPER SAFE



“Prevent Aggressive Driving”

What is aggressive driving? It is something witnessed almost daily in Camp Lejeune morning traffic. Most of us know it when we see it, but National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), after discussions with law enforcement and the judiciary, defines aggressive driving as occurring when "an individual commits a combination of moving traffic offenses so as to endanger other persons or property." This type of behavior includes tailgating, unsafe passing, honking your horn, weaving in and out of traffic to get ahead, making rude gestures, and/or swearing at other drivers. As Marines and Sailors, this type of conduct is completely unprofessional and simply unacceptable! Aggressive driving could be caused by long commutes, traffic congestion, other drivers "cutting you off", or your own impatience. It can also be caused by your mood, reactions, and ability to deal with stress on and off the road. Aggressive drivers are more likely to speed, make unsafe lane changes, ignore the right of way, and violate traffic signals. The Department of Transportation (DOT) estimates that two-thirds of traffic fatalities may be caused by aggressive driving. In 2012, we lost 33,561 persons on the roadways. That is an increase from 2011 by 1,082 deaths. The increase and rise in motor vehicle crashes and deaths is still a continuous problem year after year and people need to be reminded of the dangers of the road ways.

Don't confuse aggressive driving with road rage. Blaring your horn in traffic or making rude gestures can escalate and lead to road rage. NHTSA defines road rage as a criminal act of violence where a driver tries to intentionally injure or kill another driver, passenger, or pedestrian. Every Marine, Sailor and Civil Servant can help to prevent aggressive driving and road rage by remembering your professional military bearing, which can diffuse a situation before it gets out of control. Forget the idea of "winning" on the road. Driving is not a race. It should not be a contest to see who finishes first. Give yourself plenty of time for a trip so that if traffic or another delay occurs, you still have time to spare. If you are late, at least you got to your destination safely and that is what's most important. Let someone in on your way to work.

If you do encounter an angry or aggressive driver on the road, remember do not engage the person. Just simply ignore them by not returning any rude gestures or comments. If necessary report on and off base incidents through the Provost Marshal's Office "Third Party Ticketing" initiative or directly to your local law enforcement office. See the following tips to help you avoid from becoming an aggressive driver.

- **Do not drive when you are angry**
- **Do not tailgate**
- **Plan your trip by allowing plenty of time to reach your destination to avoid rushing**
- **Do not weave in and out of traffic**
- **Do not flash your headlights and honk your horn unnecessarily**
- **Do not cut people off**

Commanders and Supervisors: Aggressive driving threatens public safety and you and your commands Traffic Safety program is responsible to ensure your personnel receive traffic safety training and awareness to help prevent aggressive driving in compliance with MCO 5100.19F.

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