



Marine Aircraft Group 26 Safety Bulletin

No. 55

10 September 04

Late Edition



Photo of the Week...



There's no denying that, if used properly, safety equipment is good for you. Certainly it can ease your mind when you perform dangerous tasks. But when you become too comfortable with it's life-saving abilities, it can make you dangerously overconfident and complacent.

Take this painter, for example, working on a scaffold in the Gaslamp Quarter of San Diego. To his credit, he is wearing a harness ... and, even better, the harness is attached to something. However, in true dum-dum fashion, he's standing on the rails of his scaffold bending waaaay over the edge to paint in a corner.

Would he have done it this way if he weren't wearing a harness? I dunno. I've seen stranger things, but something tells me that wearing the harness has overinflated his sense of security. After all, if he falls, he'll have the harness there to catch him, right?

Yeah, but ... just 'cause the harness will prevent him from creating a dent in the pavement doesn't mean he won't fall and hurt himself. Think about it ... he could hit his head on the building, or pound his body against the scaffold. Either way, he's in for serious case of whiplash.

Folks, when you start to use your PPE as an excuse to do unsafe things, you need to re-examine your outlook on life. Sure it's there to protect you and minimize your injuries, but blatant acts of stupidity void the warranty

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OPERATIONAL:

040904 Two LCpl's were in a HMMVV (MRC-138) in a two vehicle convoy returning from Fort Bragg back to Camp Lejeune on Highway 24 IVO Clinton, NC. Subject vehicle was the second in the convoy, and overturned due a tire becoming detached from the vehicle, resulting in both Marines sustaining traumatic injuries. One LCpl was transported to Sampson Regional Medical Center in Clinton, North Carolina where he was resuscitated, but died soon thereafter due to his injuries. The second LCpl was transported to Sampson Regional Medical Center. He was later medevac'd via helicopter to University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Medical Center, and died in flight due to his injuries. He was pronounced dead at destination. This was a single vehicle accident. Seatbelt use is unknown. Alcohol was not a factor.

NON-OPERATIONAL:

040905 LCPL, 2nd MARDIV. SNM was involved in a single vehicle motorcycle accident while on liberty in Lima, OH. SNM sustained a broken right patella, a broken left scapula, and a dissected artery in his left shoulder. SNM was evacuated to the Lima Memorial Hospital and is listed as seriously injured.

040904 CPL, CBRIF. SNM sustained two broken ribs and a collapsed lung from a motorcycle accident while on liberty in York, PA. SNM was evacuated to York Memorial Hospital and is listed in stable condition.

040901 CPL, 3D AABN. SNM was traveling approximately 100 mph racing another vehicle when he lost control, hit a concrete mixer in the center divider, and was subsequently pronounced deceased on scene. His civilian passenger was also killed. SNM was on terminal leave at the time of this incident.

SUICIDES:

040902 LCPL, 3/10. SNM was discovered by BEQ roommate, face down on his rack with a belt around his neck. The roommate and several corpsmen initiated CPR. SNM was transported to the Camp Lejeune hospital approx 10 minutes thereafter, and was declared deceased.

You Drink & Drive, You Lose Campaign

We're now in the last two weeks of the "101 Critical Days of Summer" and you should be promoting YD&DYL campaign. I've listed some websites below to help with these efforts. With the Labor Day holiday coming up soon where many Marines and civilian employees will be on the road, it is especially important to raise the awareness level of this issue. Since the beginning of the FY, 9 of 39 traffic fatalities. If you have scheduled a stand down or a pause during this campaign, please send HQMCSD a synopsis of it's effectiveness - how many people attended, what kind of interest was shown etc. Through your concerted efforts, we can keep our Marines and Civilian Marines alive and safe. Stop Impaired Driving

What's PMO been up to...

NO DATA THIS WEEK



MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY COURSES

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT COURSE

Date: 13 Oct 04
Place: AS-318, Room 201-A
Time: 0730-1600 (first 25 Marines, so be early)

For planning purposes, we try to schedule the DIC class on the second Wednesday of each month. You will be notified of any change.

Driver's Improvement Class is required for all military personnel under the age of 26 - and must be completed within 90 days of arrival to their first duty station.

AS-318 (simulator building) is located on McAvoy St., behind PMO.

REMEDIAL DRIVER IMPROVEMENT COURSE

Date: 10 Sep 04
Place: AS-318, Room 201A
Time: 0730-1130

Personnel who have been identified as exhibiting bad driving habits on and off base, or personnel who have been sentenced by the MCAS Traffic Court Judge to attend a Remedial DIC are required to attend this class.

Motorcycle BASIC RIDER COURSE

Date: 8 - 9 and 22 - 23 Sep 04
Place: AS-320, Rm. 104
Time: 0800

REQUIREMENTS

Active Duty (Retired military welcome on space available basis)
Own Motorcycle
Motorcycle Learner's Permit or Endorsement
PPE requirements as addressed in MCO 5100.19E
Helmet (SNELL/ANSI/DOT Certified)
Impact/shatter resistant goggles or full faced shield attached to helmet
Reflective vest or brightly colored outer garment (for daytime use)
Hard sole shoes with heels (Leather boots or over the ankle encouraged)
Long sleeve shirt or jacket
Long legged trousers
Full fingered gloves or mittens
Over the ankle shoes/boots

Classes are held at MCAS New River, for details and registration call , (910) 449-5440/6143.

Motorcycle EXPERIENCED RIDER COURSE (11 hours)

Offered by Coastal Carolina Community College
Call 910-938-6294 Information and registration.
Course cost \$40.00.

MOTOCROSS SAFETY TRAINING

1/2 day class (\$35.00 per student)

Starting and stopping motorcycle, emergency stopping, swerves, tight turns, jumping techniques, body position.

Full day class (\$70.00 per student)

Same for 1/2 day class, plus motorcycle maintenance up keep, track conditions, safety awareness, more in depth riding techniques.

Classes are held at Half Moon Mx Park 1037 Ramsey Rd. Jacksonville, NC 28546.

Phone 910-938-1346/910-577-5850 Instructor Donnie Davis.

A Short Test

Well Boys and Girls, I hate to say it, but it's test time! Yes sir, the following is a test, created by a panel of Marines to find out if you are secretly "that guy" or not. Please answer truthfully, and to the best of your ability.

1. Is it O.K. to drink and drive?
YES / NO
2. Do you need to wear your seat belt EVERYTIME you drive somewhere?
YES / NO
3. Is it O.K. to do illegal drugs?
YES / NO
4. Is it O.K. to go swimming in the ocean at night while extremely drunk?
YES / NO
5. Is it O.K. to drive in excess of 100 mph on ANY public road?
YES / NO
6. Is it O.K. to drive in excess of 100 mph on ANY public road drunk?
YES / NO
7. Is it O.K. to drive in excess of 100 mph on ANY public road drunk, and not wearing a seatbelt?
YES / NO
8. Is it O.K. to drive in excess of 100 mph on ANY public road while it is raining?
YES / NO
9. Is it O.K. to drink for 24-48 hours and then get in your car and drive 8 hours to go home on libo?
YES / NO
10. Is it necessary to drink so much alcohol that your body literally shuts down?
YES / NO
11. Does the muzzle of your 9mm pistol need to point towards your head while putting it in your holster?
YES / NO
12. Is it O.K. to drink so much that if you fall in a fire, you can't feel yourself burning to death?
YES / NO
13. Is it O.K. to drive through a red light?
YES / NO
14. Is it O.K. to drive your vehicle after getting only an hour of sleep in the last 2 days?
YES / NO
15. Is it EVER a good idea to take your own life, no matter how bad things seem?
YES / NO

The following questions were derived from the list of fatalities from II MEF in the last year. If you answered YES to any of them, come to the MAG-26 DSS and we will issue you a nametag labeled "that guy" and lock you in a little room where you can't hurt yourself. We did not include the incident of a Marine drinking a bottle of bleach to distract his girlfriend from cutting her wrists, because we figured everyone would get that right. The idea of Safety in the Marine Corps is not focused on the incidents that are for all intents and purposes unavoidable, but the ones that can be so easily avoided especially when the cost of a lapse in judgment can be so high. If a Marine gets hit by a sudden burst of lightning, although tragic, we can't really do much about it, the idea is to get that Marine out of the rain before the lightning strikes. Notice however, every single one of the fatalities referred to above, were not only preventable, but very easily preventable with a little thing we call common sense.

That's all for this week, please stay safe, and USE YOUR HEAD

SSgt Heyward