



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
CMC-SD  
11 Jul 01

WHITE LETTER NO. 06-01

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: All General Officers  
All Commanding Officers  
All Officers in Charge

Subj: SAFETY

1. We entered this fiscal year with a lofty safety goal: to reduce our accident rate by 25%. We have achieved half of that goal. Our off-duty accident rate is down more than 25%. Marine commanders deserve the credit for that success, especially small-unit commanders.

2. Just as you deserve the credit for our off-duty accident reduction, we are accountable for the fact that our on-duty accident rate is higher than last year. As I review the accident reports of the past week, I see a disturbing trend.

- Three Dutch Marines, training with 3/2, died with 2 U.S. and 6 Dutch Marines injured as the result of an accident involving a 15-passenger van; this following the death of 2 Marines and injury of 12 others, serving with 5/14, in a similar incident involving a 15-passenger van on 10 June.

- Two Marines, serving with MCSF Bangor, died with three injured when the security vehicle in which they were riding rolled over.

- One Marine, serving with 24th MEU(SOC), died while conducting maintenance on a truck when struck in the head by a part under pressure.

- One Marine, serving with MTACS-38, died as a result of injuries received when he was crushed by two pallets of engineer stakes while attempting to adjust the load in the rear of a 5-ton truck.

- Three Marines, serving with HMM-365, died with two critically injured when a CH-46 crashed, during night vision training, just off the coast of MCAS New River, NC.

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3. We will not allow this situation to continue. We owe our Marines concerned and involved leadership at all levels. Marines at work must be properly supervised. Operational Risk Management (ORM) should be applied not only in the field, but wherever Marines are on duty.

4. I enjoin every commanding officer and officer-in-charge to help turn this situation around. Get out among your Marines. Demand that NCO's and SNCO's do the same. Use the techniques of ORM. The lives of our Marines demand our best efforts. I am confident that this is a fight we can and must win.

5. For those of you who are doing exceptionally well with regard to safety issues and have well implemented policies- Carry On!

  
J. L. JONES