



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380-0001

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CMC-POS
1 May 92

WHITE LETTER NO. 7-92

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

Subj: DRUNK DRIVING

1. Intoxicated driving is clearly incompatible with the high standards of professionalism and military discipline that epitomize our Corps. Marines who drive drunk endanger not only themselves, but also the many responsible motorists and pedestrians who use the streets and roadways of our bases and stations. For years, it has been Marine Corps policy to reduce drunk driving through a coordinated program of education, identification, law enforcement, and treatment.
2. Recently, in an effort to develop new techniques to handle the problem of drunk driving, several commands have attempted to institute "courtesy ride" and "command referral" programs for first time offenders stopped on base for driving under the influence. These programs afford the first time offender a "second chance" by referring the violator directly to the command vice having him or her processed by the military police. While I applaud the initiative involved in these proposals and certainly appreciate the inherent leadership responsibilities of command, DoD and DON policy on the subject is clear. The aggressive enforcement of DUI/DWI laws is a major component of the overall program to reduce drunk driving. Commands may not circumvent mandatory DUI/DWI processing requirements by locally instituting less stringent procedures. Administrative suspension of installation driving privileges and other DoD and DON enforcement measures will be applied uniformly to offenders driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
3. The practice of Marines gathering together in fellowship is a time honored tradition enjoyed by Marines everywhere. No one is suggesting we curtail this practice. My guidance on this matter, however, is clear. We will not tacitly condone drunk driving by adopting less forceful enforcement measures. Marines suspected of driving under the influence must be handled in accordance with existing policy and directives.


C. E. MUNDY, JR.