



Commander, Marine Corps Forces Reserve Fall - Winter Force Protection Message

The critical days of summer ended labor day weekend. MARFORRES suffered three reportable mishaps that met the criteria of a serious incident. This sounds grandiose on the surface; reality however reveals a different picture. During these critical days we also had four Reserve Marines that are facing a life of paralysis due to the poor choices that they made. Is it just these individuals who are now paying the price for their choices? I say emphatically, no! They have wives, mothers, fathers, children, and friends that must now bear the burden of seeing their loved ones gone or changed forever.

We must continue to foster a culture of responsible decision making. Encourage your subordinates and peers to do the right thing all the time. One slight slip in judgment can instantaneously affect lives forever.

Over this period, what was our weapon of choice used to kill or maim our Marines? Vehicles, be they two or four wheeled. Moreover, how did we make their lethality more effective? We added in fatigue, driving between midnight and 0600, excessive speed, consuming alcohol and not wearing seat belts.

Safety officers and safety managers will begin planning now for the changing seasons. Prepare your training schedules to deal with the fall/winter activities and weather conditions in your local areas. Some topics that quickly rise to the surface are winter driving hazards, hunting and weapons handling safety, home preparation for the changing weather and Halloween safety.

Commanding officers, Inspector Instructors and Officers In Charge shall require all personnel who desire to travel over the upcoming holidays to utilize the travel risk planning system "T.R.I.P.S.". This program will enable the Marine and/or sailor to plan his/her travel by giving directions, risk assessment, and safety tips for the trip. The T.R.I.P.S. work-up will be vetted through each individual's immediate supervisor and will not be approved without that supervisor's evaluation. This provides an opportunity to reevaluate decisions and correct any improper choices to the individual's travel plans while reinforcing the most important portion of this procedure: the small unit leader's direct involvement with their personnel. This tool is available on the HQMC safety division website; a link that takes you directly to the site is provided below. The tool can also be accessed through Marine On Line.

We must continue the integration of responsible decision making when our Marines and sailors leave the fence line.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.A. Hummer".

Steven A. Hummer
Lieutenant General

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