



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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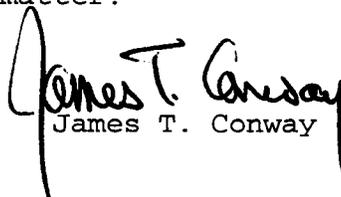
IN REPLY REFER TO:
CMC-SD

WHITE LETTER NO. XX-07

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

Subj: MARINE CORPS MANDATORY SEAT BELT POLICY

1. Seat belt use is mandatory for all Marines - whether operating or riding in a motor vehicle, on or off duty, or whether on or off any Department of Defense installation.
2. MCO 5100.19E, "Marine Corps Traffic Safety Program (DRIVESAFE)" is punitive as it relates to seat belt usage. Any violations subject the offender to administrative or disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
3. Safety Division is revising DRIVESAFE by end of April, to ensure commanders have the appropriate tools to keep our Marines safe and increase our ability to hold Marines accountable. The revision will emphasize:
 - Seat belts will be worn by all occupants.
 - Drivers will not operate any vehicle until all passengers are wearing seat belts.
 - The senior military occupant will not permit the operation of any vehicle until all passengers are wearing seat belts.
 - All Marines will sign an acknowledgment attesting to their understanding of DRIVESAFE and its consequences.
 - Seat belt compliance reporting procedures will be standardized, to include inclusion in the Inspector General of the Marine Corps Command and Unit Inspection Programs.
4. Proper seat belt usage dramatically reduces the chance of injury during motor vehicle accidents. Please take care of your Marines and demand strict adherence to this matter.


James T. Conway