

# FY19 FATALITIES

as of 8 November 2018

Aviation

0

Ground On-Duty

1

Car

1

Motorcycle

1

Other

0

TOTAL

3

Numbers in fatality categories are subject to change based on final disposition of investigation.

www.safety.marines.mil

Vol. 19 - Ed. 1



# COMBATTING THE BLUE THREAT

## COMMANDANT'S SAFETY ACTION CAMPAIGN

### How Are We Doing?

#### From the Director...

This Blue Threat marks our sixth in a series of newsletters published as part of the Commandant's Safety Action Campaign. While previous editions have highlighted topics related to safety and risk management, in this edition we will discuss how we recognize and reward those who have distinguished themselves by their efforts to reduce safety mishaps. First, I need you all to understand where the threat lives. Marines at every level need to be aware of these threats so we can ID the hazards, mitigate the threats, and reduce the risk of future mishaps. Our goal is a 50% reduction in mishap fatalities by the end of FY19. Now together let's focus on where our mishaps are occurring and ID the threat.

			CLASS A MISHAPS			FATALITIES		
			2017	2018	%	2017	2018	%
👍	<b>IMPROVED</b>	Aviation	12	6	<b>50.0%</b>	21	5	<b>76.2%</b>
👍	<b>IMPROVED</b>	Ground On-Duty	9	4	<b>55.6%</b>	4	4	~
👍	<b>IMPROVED</b>	Off-Duty/Recreational	14	8	<b>42.9%</b>	19	10	<b>47.4%</b>
👍	<b>IMPROVED</b>	Motorcycle (PMV-2)	18	12	<b>33.3%</b>	18	13	<b>27.8%</b>
👎	<b>NOT IMPROVED</b>	Car (PMV-4)	11	15	<b>-36.4%</b>	11	15	<b>-36.4%</b>

From FY17 to FY18 there was a 29.7% reduction in total Class A mishaps and 35.6% reduction in total fatalities. While these numbers represent significant improvements in many categories, motorcycle and automobile accidents continue to be our #1 source of mishap fatalities. In FY18 automobiles and motorcycles combined totaled 60% of all mishap fatalities. **For motorcycles, loss of control was the primary factor in the majority of Class A mishaps.** In 9 out of the 13 fatalities, the rider had less than 4 months of motorcycle experience. If you're considering purchasing a motorcycle, first notify your command. Then join your unit's motorcycle club and find a mentor. Take the required motorcycle training offered by the Marine Corps, find a bike that matches your skill level, and wear the appropriate safety gear—you dress for the fall, not the ride.

The safety category associated with automobile fatalities was the only one that increased from FY17 to FY18. **In FY18, nine of the 15 mishaps were single vehicle accidents caused by fatigue or distracted driving.** In five instances, the driver was not wearing a seatbelt. With the holiday season approaching, many Marines will be traveling to see family and friends. Plan your trip so you aren't tempted to drive fast or when you're tired, put down your cell phone, and put on your seatbelt.

## I CHALLENGE EACH AND EVERY COMMANDER

to reduce preventable fatalities by 50% by the end of FY19. If your command can achieve this or maintain a zero fatality record, your unit will be recognized in the Blue Threat newsletter at the end of the next FY.



**DID YOU KNOW?** Safety awards are considered commendatory!

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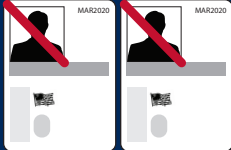
*Numbers in fatality categories are subject to change based on final disposition of investigation.*

# FY19 MISHAPS

## OFF-DUTY

**1 CLASS A PMV-4** resulted in the death of one Marine.

**1 CLASS A PMV-2** resulted in the death of one Marine.



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## AVIATION

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## GROUND

**1 CLASS A MISHAP** resulted in the death of one Marine.



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## Safety Excellence Should be Rewarded...

**O**ur effort and attention spent managing hazards, mitigating risk, and exercising care in the performance of our duties may at times seem routine, but these safety best practices save Marines' lives and Marine resources. The Marine Corps participates in several safety awards programs to recognize and reward this kind of discipline and safe behavior. Some of these programs issue awards monthly, quarterly, or annually. Others are issued on the spot specifically to recognize a major safety achievement when it occurs. Prizes vary from cash, coins, or plaques to certificates and trophies presented at award ceremonies.

You might be thinking there isn't enough time to prepare nomination packages for deserving Marines, but we'll show you how simple it really is. In addition, evaluating your unit when choosing nominees provides an opportunity to examine your safety procedures and identify areas where improvements are needed.



Lt. Gen. Steven R. Rudder, deputy commandant for Marine Corps aviation, poses for a photo with Lance Cpl. Philomena Maleski, powerline mechanic with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR)152, at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, March 16, 2018. Rudder visited VMGR-152 to present them with the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Aviation Safety Award for the squadron's excellence in safety while stationed at MCAS Iwakuni. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Lauren Brune)

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## Safety Awards Programs

There are many award programs available to Marine Corps personnel that encourage and reward safety excellence. The following table outlines each award program, eligibility requirements, categories, and prizes awarded.

### SAFETY AWARDS

Award	Frequency	Ref / Categories	Eligibility	Award/Prize	
<b>Marine Corps Ground Safety Awards</b>	Varied	MCO 5100.32A	Command Safety Awards Program	Subordinate Units / Individuals	Command-purchased certificates, plaques, and trophies
			Unit Impact Awards		Command-purchased certificates, plaques, and trophies
			Road Warrior Awards	All USMC military and civilian personnel	Certificate from the Commandant of the Marine Corps
			Warrior Preservation Award	All USMC bases, stations, and depots	Trophy, plaque, and certificate
			Marine Corps Superior Achievement Award	All USMC military and civilian personnel	Plaque and commemorative coin
<b>CNO Aviation Safety Awards</b>	Annual	OPNAVINST 1650.28B	Any Marine Corps Aviation Units	Engraved plaque	
<b>Pete Ross Safety Award</b>	Annual	MCO 1650.29H	Any Marine Aviation Unit, Regular or Reserve Component	Award presented at the annual Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion & Symposium	
<b>Collier Trophy</b>	Annual	MCO 1650.29H	All active duty Marine personnel	Trophy from the National Aeronautics Association	
<b>Grampaw Pettibone Award</b>	Annual	MCO 1650.29H	Marine Corps Aviation Units and Individuals	Engraved plaque	
<b>Navy League - Secretary Gordon R. England Safety Awards</b>	Annual (Fiscal Year)	ALNAV 074/16	All Navy and USMC active duty, reserve, or civilian personnel	Cash award, commemorative scroll, and award presentation at the Navy League Sea-Air-Space Exposition	
<b>GEICO Military Service Awards</b>	Annual	Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention	Any active duty or reserve component enlisted member with at least one year obligated service from the date of nomination.	Awardees honored with awards ceremony in Washington, DC, including lodging and transportation; as well as a \$2,500 honorarium.	
		Fire Safety and Fire Prevention			
		Traffic Safety and Accident Prevention			
<b>SECNAV Safety Excellence Awards</b>	Annual	SECNAVINST 5100.10K	Afloat	Commissioned afloat Navy units	Recognition via ALNAV message and Washington DC area ceremony hosted by SECNAV or his or her representative
			Aviation	Units operating under aircraft controlling custodians	
			Expeditionary	All Navy and USMC units and activities	
			Off-Duty Safety	All Navy and USMC units and activities	
			Safety Integration in Acquisition	Navy and USMC teams or offices with acquisition missions	
			Emerging Safety Center of Excellence	All Navy and Marine Corps activities	

**DID YOU KNOW?** Safety awards are considered commendatory!

## More About Safety Awards Programs

### MARINE CORPS GROUND SAFETY AWARDS

Established through the Secretary of the Navy Awards for Achievement in Safety Ashore, the Marine Corps Ground Safety Awards Program recognizes Marines and their units for significant contributions and accomplishments made in the field of safety and mishap prevention. The various categories honor achievements and contributions on the individual and organizational levels, each detailed under **MCO 5100.32A**. Each of the categories are summarized below:

- **Command Safety Awards:** These awards are established by all Marine Corps commands, with the intent of recognizing outstanding safety performance of subordinate units and individual military and civilian personnel.
- **Unit Impact Awards:** Recognizing spontaneous, on-the-spot safety related actions within a local unit that go above and beyond standard expectations.
- **Road Warrior Awards:** Submitted quarterly, the Road Warrior Awards recognize mishap- and violation-free driving mileage at both an individual and unit level. For the "Individual" Government Motor Vehicle Operator Award, Marine or civilian personnel can be rewarded for each 2,500 increment in which they avoid accidents and damage. In terms of the Unit Government Motor Vehicle Operator Award, this honor is presented for units who achieve these same accomplishments in 25,000 miles increments.
- **Warrior Preservation Award:** Honoring installations that have implemented successful, comprehensive safety programs, the Warrior Preservation Award is presented to bases, stations, and depots with outstanding contributions relative to the installation's assignments.
- **Marine Corps Superior Achievement Award:** This individual award is presented to one officer, one enlisted, and one government civilian who have made the most significant contributions to Marine Corps Safety Programs.



On 17 May 2018 upon completion of the U. S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Ground Safety Manager's Workshop, then Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific LtGen D. H. Berger recognizes the recipients of 2017 Officer and Enlisted Marine Corps Individual Superior Achievement in Safety Awardees; Capt Nicholas R. Sesing (H&S Bn, 1st MarDiv) and MGySgt Steven R. Kerste (3D MLG) for their significant contributions and accomplishments in the field of safety, mishap prevention and force preservation.

With the exception of the Road Warrior Awards, Marine Corps Ground Safety Award nominations should be submitted with a post-mark no later than 15 December to CMC(SD) at the following address:

Commandant of the Marine Corps (SD)  
 Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
 701 S. Courthouse Rd., Suite 2O050  
 Arlington, VA 22204-2190

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## Learn More About USMC Safety Awards

### 1,000 HOUR PATCHES ARE BACK!

CMC Aviation Safety Awards are returning soon! Commanders and Marines, watch for the MCBUL with guidance. Individual awards include the 1,000 Mishap-Free Flight Hours award and Units are rewarded for every 10,000 Hours of Class A Mishap-Free flight time.

#### CNO AVIATION SAFETY AWARDS

To recognize excellence in flight safety, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) sponsors the CNO Aviation Safety Awards to honor eligible Navy and Marine Corps aviation units. Winners are selected based on the following considerations:

- Aviation Class A, B, C, and D mishaps and mishap rates for flight, flight-related, and ground operations
- Flight exposure (day and night)
- Quality of mishap reports
- Quality and quantity of hazard reports with emphasis on human factors reporting
- Days and number of aircraft embarked aboard ship (if applicable)
- Days and number of aircraft deployed away from home base (if applicable)
- Overall appraisal by the aircraft controlling custodian
- Contributions to the Naval Aviation Safety Management System

Nominations should be submitted as directed by the appropriate aircraft controlling custodians, and custodians must submit nominations to the Naval Safety Center (Attention: Director, Aviation Safety Programs) by 15 January for the preceding fiscal year.

#### COLLIER TROPHY

The National Aeronautic Association presents the Collier Trophy to active duty Marine aviation personnel who have contributed to American aeronautics or astronautics, aviation performance, and efficiency or safety of air or space vehicles. With winners determined by committee, the NAA president customarily presents the award to recipients. Nominations are due 5 January.

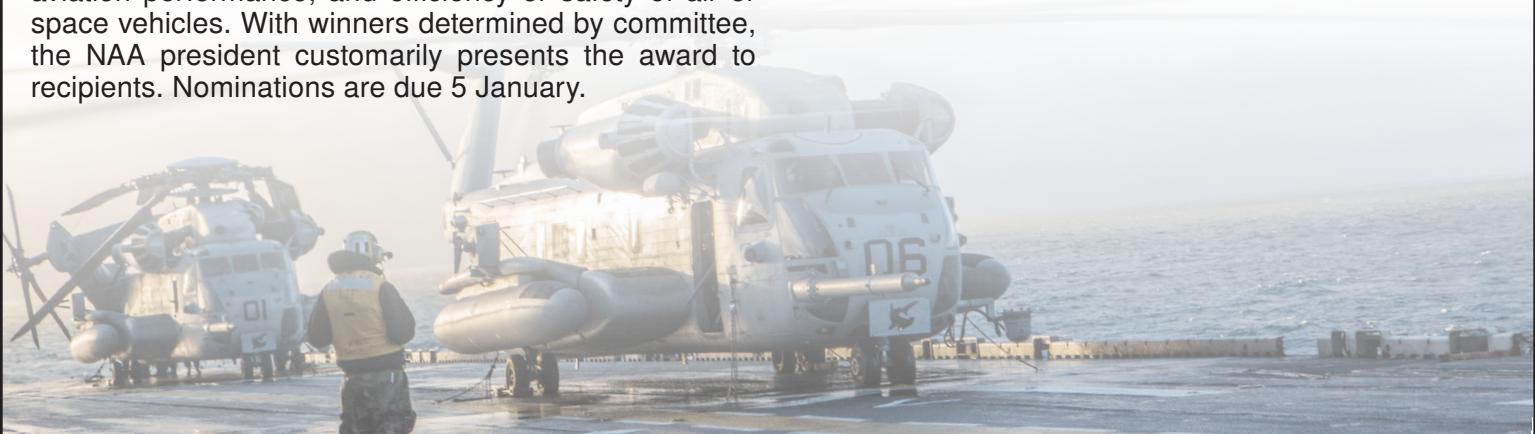
#### PETE ROSS SAFETY AWARD

Established to honor 1st Lt Pete Ross, this award is presented to a Marine squadron demonstrating superior performance and an exemplary safety record over the previous year. The unit achieving the best safety record from 1 January to 31 December will be selected by the CMC Aviation Awards Board and presented at the annual Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion and Symposium. Nominations are due by 1 February to CMC Manpower and Support Branch.

#### GRAMPAW PETTIBONE AWARD

This award is presented to one individual and one Navy or Marine Corps aviation unit in order to commemorate the work of Navy CAPT Seth Warner and LT Robert Osborn, respectively the originator and illustrator of Grampaw Pettibone -- a series of illustrations and narratives speaking to aviation safety. With categories for Written Media and Electronic Media, the Naval Safety Center selects individuals and organizations that have contributed exceptionally toward aviation safety awareness. Articles, graphics, presentations, videos, websites and other forms of media may be considered, with a plaque awarded to winners and citations for runners-up.

Aviation controlling custodians, USN TYCOMs, USMC forces commands, and 4th MAW are invited to forward two nominations in each category to the Naval Safety Center (Attention: Media and Public Affairs) by 15 January.



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Winners of the 2016 GEICO Military Service Awards, including LCpl Lawrence D. Lucy (third from right). Image courtesy of GEICO.com.

### GEICO MILITARY SERVICE AWARDS

Supported by the organization's Philanthropic Foundation, the GEICO Military Service Awards help recognize the valuable and lasting contributions made by enlisted military personnel within their communities. With awards presented to one enlisted member of the DoD's Armed Services, the award honors achievements in the following areas:

Fire Safety & Fire Prevention  
Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention  
Traffic Safety & Accident Prevention



All recipients are celebrated at an awards ceremony hosted in Washington, DC. Winners receive a plaque, round trip expenses and lodging costs for themselves and a guest to attend the award ceremony, and a \$2,500 cash honorarium. All active duty, reserve, and National Guard component enlisted servicemembers are eligible for nomination.

Nomination packages should include information on the nominee, a write-up describing the individual's achievements related to safety and the benefits yielded to the service and community, contact information, a photograph of the nominee, and a letter of endorsement. Packages are due to CMC Safety Division no later than 1 December.

For more information on the award and the nomination process, please visit [www.geico.com/information/military/returning-the-favor/service-awards/](http://www.geico.com/information/military/returning-the-favor/service-awards/).

### SECNAV SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The SECNAV Safety Excellence Awards highlight Navy and Marine Corps commands demonstrating extraordinary safety excellence. Accordingly, this honor celebrates activities and achievements that have enhanced war-fighting and mission readiness capabilities by reducing preventable deaths, injuries, occupational illnesses, infrastructure/material losses, and mission degradation. Under both the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, nominees compete for awards in the following available categories:

- Ashore
- Afloat
- Aviation
- Expeditionary
- Off-duty Safety
- Safety Integration in Acquisition
- Emerging Safety Center of Excellence

All commands, organizations, and teams across the DoN are eligible for submission, each category may require specific formatting in submitted nomination packages.

Nomination packages must be endorsed by the nominee's chain of command, and submitted to DASN Safety ([dasnsafety@navy.mil](mailto:dasnsafety@navy.mil)) no later than 1 April.



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# More About Safety Awards Programs

## SECRETARY GORDON R. ENGLAND SAFETY AWARDS (Admiral Vern Clark and General James L. Jones Safety Award)

Annually, the Navy League of the United States presents awards to Sailors and Marines who performed innovative actions or delivered solutions that reduced fatalities and/or mishaps within the Department of the Navy. With the purpose of advancing a culture of safety across the DON, the awards program is meant to stimulate ideas, encourage recommendations, build programs, and enhance actions in the safety community.

Available to Navy and Marine Corps personnel, DON civilians, and Navy/USMC reservists, nominations are reviewed by an awards selection board reviewing the accomplishments within the framework of the award criteria. Winners are recognized at the annual Navy League Sea-Air-Space Exposition, and awards include cash prizes in addition to commemorative materials.

Nominations must be submitted no by mail or email no later than February 28, with hard-copy packages directed to the following address:

*Navy League of the United States, Attn: Corporate Affairs, 2300 Wilson Blvd., Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22201-3308*

For more information on the award program and nomination format, please visit [www.navyleague.org/programs/safety-awards.html](http://www.navyleague.org/programs/safety-awards.html).

For a full list of award nomination requirements and submission instructions, visit the Awards page on the Safety Division website: [www.safety.marines.mil/About/Awards-Programs/](http://www.safety.marines.mil/About/Awards-Programs/) often for updates and for additional information about all of the Safety Awards Programs.

## From the Fleet

We've been receiving tremendous feedback from the fleet about safety issues discussed in these newsletters. Below are a few comments and questions about weapon safety and negligent discharge (ND).

### Weapon Safety

Regarding weapon safety, hunting season is now open. There are valuable lessons to be learned from taking your local hunter's education course.

### ND Comments: The Crux of the Matter

1. Weapon safety rule #1 should read, "Know what condition your weapon is in."
2. Every Marine is first and foremost a rifleman.
3. A unit that doesn't practice good weapons handling AT ALL TIMES is an undisciplined unit.

### ND Questions

Where do you think the issue begins? Is it leadership, or lazy Marines not doing the right thing? Or, is it that certain units don't handle weapons as often as others and become relaxed with them?

### Answer

It's both leadership and complacency. Units that don't handle weapons with regularity need leaders who acknowledge that and provide risk management measures and education to reduce the potential for NDs.

As individuals, Marines would do well to remember there is no "off-duty" when practicing weapon safety. If you're handling a weapon, you handle it as a professional Marine.

Coming soon - We are establishing an email address for you to submit questions/comments about the Blue Threat, and a link will be provided on our website home page. Please visit us at [www.safety.marines.mil](http://www.safety.marines.mil)

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