



COMBATTING THE BLUE THREAT

Commandant's Safety Action Campaign

www.safety.marines.mil

Vol. 18 - Ed. 1

What is the Commandant's Safety Action Campaign (CSAC)?

Commander's Intent: To combat the needless loss of life and injury for Marines and Sailors due to mishaps on and off duty.

Combatting the Blue Threat: The trends, case studies and analysis found monthly in this Newsletter will be a tool for Small Unit Leaders to educate and empower their Marines and Sailors to end needless mishaps.

- In the last 30 months we have lost **208** Marines to mishaps—**this is unacceptable.**
- The goal of the Safety Action Campaign is to reduce mishap fatalities by 50% by the end of FY19.
- Review ALMAR 016/18 for specified tasks for Commanding Officers and Sergeants Major.

Enduring Themes of the CSAC:

- Marines Take Care of Their Own (One of six Enduring Principles published in MCDP 1-0).
- Safety is not a separate activity, but the byproduct of professionally executed / risk managed operations.
- Every Marine is responsible for breaking the chain of events that leads to a mishap.

What is "The Blue Threat"?

THE BLUE THREAT =

Conditions, actions, and inactions within the organization that result in unnecessary risk, often resulting in mishaps.

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The Blue Threat takes many forms:

THE BLUE THREAT

INADEQUATE
PLANNING

PROCEDURAL
NONCOMPLIANCE

INADEQUATE
TRAINING

POOR
SUPERVISION

ERROR

2

3

The focus must be on eliminating unsafe conditions/actions, not merely mitigating the consequences. An unsafe condition or action may only result in injury or damage one time out of 1,000—**to wait for tragedy is to fail!**



What ACTION can we take to combat the Blue Threat?

ALL LEADERS

Risk Management is a leadership competency.

- ☐ All small unit leaders need to teach their junior Marines how to translate on-duty risk management TTPs to off-duty planning and execution.
- ☐ Give greater responsibility for Risk Management and Safety to your small unit and NCO leaders, train them accordingly, and hold them accountable for what they can control.

NCOs

Your leadership at the small unit level is vital to preventing these senseless losses.

- ☐ Teach your Marines the fundamentals of risk management.
- ☐ Conduct risk assessments of your junior Marines' leave and liberty activities, informed by the significant events in this newsletter.
- ☐ If their plan is inadequate, help them create a plan to mitigate the risks or recommend disapproval of leave/liberty up the chain of command.
- ☐ Hold your Marines accountable for executing the plan as briefed.
- ☐ Step in to **BREAK THE CHAIN** of events that leads to a mishap. Take action!

EVERY MARINE

Each of us is responsible for our actions and decisions, on and off duty

- ☐ Approach your time off as though your life depends on it!
- ☐ Do not allow enthusiasm to cloud your judgment regarding risks.

As you will see in the coming pages (and coming issues) it can happen to you.

Did You Know?

Motor Vehicle (MV) / Pedestrian deaths are a national problem.
<https://www.nsc.org/road-safety/safety-topics/distracted-driving>

FY18 FATALITIES

Aviation

5

On-Duty

2

Car

10

Motorcycle

10

Other

7

TOTAL

34



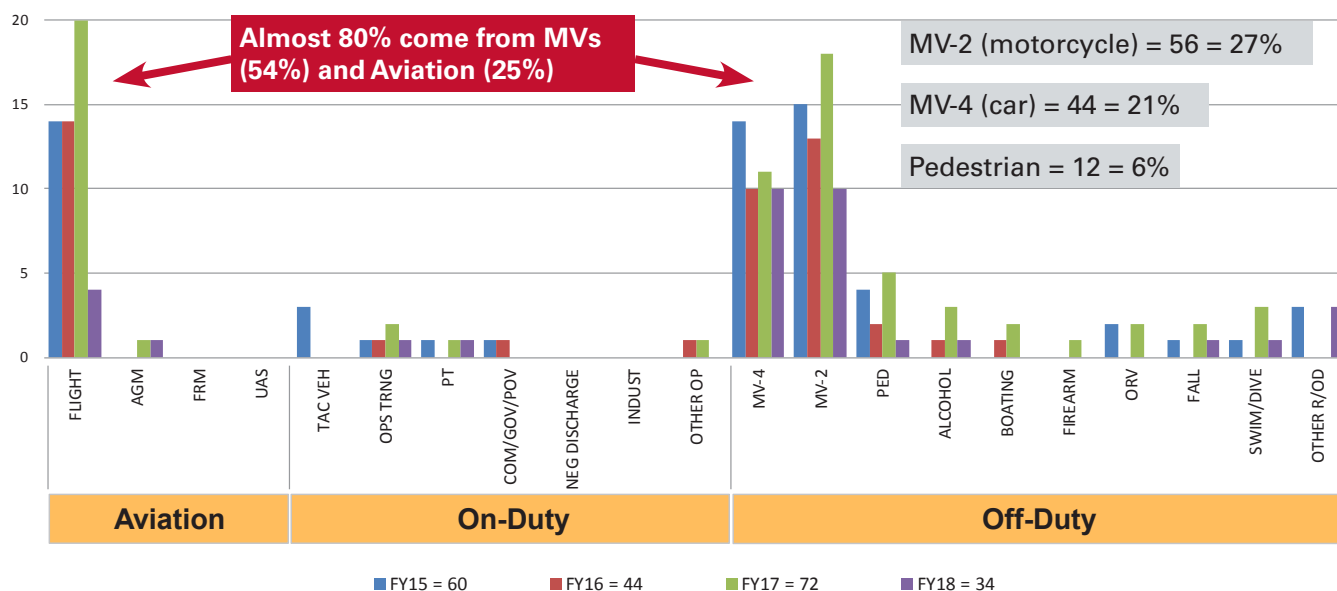
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What Kills Marines? The 80 Percent Solution



ACTION—Combat the 80%!

- ☐ Focus on preventing MV and Aviation mishaps through deliberate Risk Management.
- ☐ Hold Marines accountable for compliance with applicable orders and policies.

How are we doing in FY18 so far?



We have had...

AVIATION

4 Class A Mishaps resulting in the loss of four Marines, one Sailor, two CH-53Es, and one AV-8B. Our current Class A Flight mishap rate is 2.33, which is better than FY17 (3.99) and our five year average (3.00).



GROUND

2 Class A Mishaps, both of which resulted in death. Significant other on-duty mishaps include four Marines shot during live fire and maneuver training on Range 400 in two separate incidents.



OFF-DUTY

- 9 Class A MV-2 (Motorcycle) Mishaps** that resulted in the deaths of ten Marines. Most common causal factors are skill-based errors, often following decision errors.
- 10 Class A MV-4 (Car) Mishaps** that resulted in the deaths of ten Marines. Most incidents occur late at night, suggesting that fatigue may have contributed. Excessive speed for conditions is common. Seat belts were not worn in several incidents.
- 1 Class A Pedestrian Mishap** that resulted in the death of one Marine.
- 5 Class A Other Mishaps** that resulted in the deaths of four Marines. Alcohol is often a contributing factor.



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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS ROLL-UP FOR MAY 2018

Aviation

Fatalities:

- None.

Injuries:

- None.

Other:

- 2018-05-12 **Class C UAS:** VMU-1, MCAS Yuma, AZ. An Unmanned Aircraft System struck a small tactical recovery system on post-recovery. This incident is expected to exceed the Class C mishap threshold and is estimated to cost \$100,000.
- 2018-05-15 **Class C Flight Mishap:** HMLA-167, MCAS New River, NC. During a post-flight inspection, the aircraft was found to have a ½" diameter gouge in the leading edge of the blade. The cause of the damage is unknown. This is estimated to exceed the threshold for a Class C mishap.

On-Duty

Fatalities:

- None.

Injuries:

- 2018-05-06 **Class C OPSTRNG:** 3/4, MCAGCCTwenty-nine Palms, CA. SNMs sustained gunshot wounds during a live fire and maneuver range (Range 400) at ITX. LCpl sustained a wound to the leg (NSI). Cpl sustained a wound to the abdomen (VSI).
- 2018-05-17 **Class C OPSTRNG:** 1st LAR, Camp Pendleton, CA. A LAV-25 rollover occurred at Camp Pendleton. Emergency medical personnel were dispatched to the scene. One Marine was taken to Scripps Memorial in La Jolla via AIR-MEDEVAC, the remaining five Marines were taken to the Naval Hospital as a precaution.

Other:

- None.



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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS ROLL-UP FOR MAY 2018

Off-Duty

Fatalities:

- 2018-05-01 **Class A MV-2:** 1st LAR, Temecula, CA. On 29 APR 18 LCpl was involved in a **motorcycle mishap** IVO Pechanga parkway in Temecula, Ca. SNM was pronounced deceased at 010118Z MAY 18, due to complications from the injuries sustained.
- 2018-05-06 **Class A MV-4:** 8th MCD, Diboll, TX. Poolee was involved in a motor vehicle mishap and subsequently declared deceased.
- 2018-05-08 **Class A MV-4:** Poolee, 8th MCD, Thermopolis, WY. Poolee from RSS Cheyenne was killed in a **multi vehicle mishap**.
- 2018-05-09 **Class A REC/OFF-DUTY:** 4th MCD, Chesterfield County, VA. A poolee was declared deceased after being **struck by a train**.
- 2018-05-10 **DECEASED Marine:** 3d Bn, 3d Mar, Fort Lauderdale, FL. While on leave enroute from MOS school to 3D BN 3D MAR, SNM was **found unresponsive** at a friend's house. EMS was called and SNM was declared deceased. The official cause of death is under investigation.
- 2018-05-10 **SWIM/DIVE:** 8th MCD, Bowie, TX. Poolee was declared deceased after a swim in a lake near Bowie High School, during which SNP **went under the water and did not come up**. Bowie Police is investigating the cause of death and will not provide any additional information at this time.
- 2018-05-10 **TBD DECEASED:** 1st MARDIV, Santa Monica, CA. Sgt was pronounced deceased by the Santa Monica Coroner on 10 MAY 18. The time and cause of death are unknown at this time. SNM's EAS was 19 JAN 18 and was within 120 days of separation from the service.
- 2018-05-18 **Class A FALL:** MCSF Bn, Kings Bay, GA. Cpl **fell from the 3rd deck of the barracks to the concrete below** and was subsequently pronounced deceased. No further information is available at this time.
- 2018-05-20 **Class A MV-4:** 3d Bn, 25th Mar, Reading, PA. While in an active drilling status and commuting home at the conclusion of drill, a Capt was involved in a **motor vehicle mishap**, rear-ending a tractor trailer, that resulted in SNO's **vehicle catching fire** and SNO subsequently being declared deceased.



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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS ROLL-UP FOR MAY 2018

Off-Duty (Continued)

Injuries:

- 2018-05-05 **Class TBD REC/OFF-DUTY**: 3d Bn, 7th Mar, Camp Beuring, Kuwait. Cpl twisted the left foot while playing basketball resulting in a "Jones Fracture" that will require surgery.
- 2018-05-07 **Class C OFF-ROAD VEH**: 1/6, Dayton, OH. Sgt was involved in a moto-cross mishap while on leave and suffered head trauma. SNM is currently in an induced coma.
- 2018-05-08 **Class C MV-2**: MCRD SD. LCpl sustained injuries to the pelvis and wrists after being struck by a vehicle that ran a red light. The LCPL was operating a motorcycle, was wearing all the required PPE, and had the green light at the intersection.
- 2018-05-10 **Class TBD MV-2 (SI)**: CBIRF, Indian Head, MD. Cpl was involved in a motorcycle mishap resulting in an injury to the left leg. SNM underwent emergency surgery to restore blood flow and avoid amputation.
- 2018-05-13 **Class TBD MV-4 (SI)**: 3d LAR, Joshua Tree, CA. LCpl and spouse were involved in a vehicle rollover on Highway 62 near Joshua Tree, CA. SNM sustained a broken arm, wrist, and elbow and was admitted to the Desert Regional ICU for left arm nerve and tendon surgery.

Other:

- 2018-05-15 **VEHICULAR HOMICIDE**: 1st Bn, 8th Mar, Atlanta, GA. On 10 Mar 17, a LCpl was involved in a motor vehicle mishap near Dalton, Georgia in which one civilian was killed. Georgia State Police initiated an investigation on 10 Mar 17. On 14 May 18, SNM was charged with Vehicular Homicide. On 15 May 18, SNM turned self in, was booked, released, and is awaiting a court appearance..