

# From the Editor

Marines,

It has been two years since I was in sunny and hot Iraq, where the mornings began with a trip to the head to beat the flies to my business before they were at full strength. A day never passed without hearing some gunfire.

As we convoyed throughout our AO, I intently watched Iraqis for any hostile actions. In our HMMWV, I most often sat as A-driver to the good corporal who drove for me. Many times we had to swerve to avoid a collision, but never once did our vehicle roll over. If it had, I might not be here today. Why? Because neither the corporal nor I ever wore seatbelts.

I now know the error of my ways, and I want to use this magazine to help other Marines realize why they are told to wear seatbelts. Too many die in Iraq and here at home, because they don't buckle up— in military vehicles or personal autos. It's a simple action that should be automatic. Sometimes we don't buckle up because we're concerned with being able to exit a vehicle in time, or we're too cool or just lazy.

I admit, my perspective has changed greatly since arriving at the Naval Safety Center and working with Headquarters Marine Corps, but there is a solid reason. During my tour here, I have read about numerous mishaps that ended in needless deaths. Marines were ejected from sturdy trucks that would have protected them if only they had worn their seatbelts. Instead of being back in CONUS on convalescent leave, these Marines are dead.

The next time you get in a vehicle, whether going on patrol or heading on liberty, make buckling up a habit. Don't do it because you are told. Do it because it could save your life.

Semper Fi,



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NASCAR Team Marines supports the Marine Corps Critical Days of Summer Campaign by encouraging Marines to buckle up.



TEAM MARINES

ashton lewis jr. #25

**"CLICK IT"**

CLICK IT IS TICKET

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The advertisement features a central image of a red and black NASCAR race car, number 25, with 'MARINES' and 'TAURUS' branding. A driver in a red and blue uniform stands next to the car. The background is a checkered pattern with the Marine Corps emblem. A small inset image shows a close-up of a seatbelt buckle. The text 'TEAM MARINES' is at the top, and 'ashton lewis jr. #25' is below the car. The slogan 'CLICK IT' is prominently displayed in large, bold letters, with a signature below it. A small logo for 'CLICK IT IS TICKET' is on the left, and 'MARINES.COM' is at the bottom left. The Marine Corps emblem is at the bottom right.