

# I'm In Charge!

**T**oday's Marines are tactical and technical experts who are our future leaders. They are capable of training and directing their Marines to be smart about managing risk while getting the job done.

As the 2004 mishap-summary insert illustrates, PMV fatalities claimed the lives of 46 Marines. The loss of any Marine is a tragedy, and as each Marine provides expertise to his/her team, that loss affects the combat capability and effectiveness of the Marine Corps. These needless deaths and serious injuries must stop.

Marines, you must take charge and turn this picture around. How can you? Apply your expertise in tactical risk management to make the right decisions whenever operating or riding in a PMV.

## **Take charge.**

Assess the possible risks involved with

your current situation. Driving or riding to a party? Will alcohol be involved? Who will be the designated driver? What's your plan to get yourself and your fellow Marines home safely if your driver leaves early or is unfit to drive? Plan your event and make the necessary decisions to manage the possible risks.

**Be a leader of Marines.** As a band of brothers, we take care of our own. How is your fellow Marine? Is he or she at risk of a vehicle accident because of fatigue, alcohol, or anger?

**Take charge.** Assume the leadership responsibility and take the keys, call a cab, or just stop for a second. They may tell you they don't need help, but, if their actions are about to put themselves, other Marines, or the public at risk, it's your responsibility to take charge.

Assess your current situation and manage the risk.

Have the moral courage to do the right thing for our Corps and its Marines.

## **I challenge all marines to take charge:**

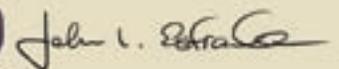
- Whether on or off duty;
- Whenever two or more Marines are in a vehicle together, one of you **MUST** assume the responsibility of leadership and state, "I'm in charge," prior to operating the vehicle.

Too many Marines have been killed or seriously injured in vehicle-related accidents.

Stop these accidents from happening.

Take charge and show the moral courage to make the right decision.

Your commandant and I are extremely proud of your performance throughout our Corps, and we really need your help in PMV and tactical-vehicle safety.



John L. Estrada  
Sergeant Major of the  
Marine Corps

