



MARINE CORPS SAFETY AWARDS

By Jessica Martell

The Marine Corps Superior Achievement in Safety Award is presented annually to one officer, one enlisted, and one civilian member who have made the most significant contributions to the Marine Corps safety program. Nominations must be in narrative form, describing noteworthy contributions by the individual, and then submitted through the chain of command for signature by the commander or commanding officer. A board of Marine Corps safety professionals reviews all nominee packages, and based on the award criteria, determines winners. All Marine Corps military and civilian personnel are eligible for this annual award.

Captain Kimberley E. Jones:
Resurrects Safety in School
Safety Officer, School of Infantry East

Filling the safety officer billet at Camp Geiger's School of Infantry was not a simple task; the position had been dormant, and the safety program was lacking. Captain Jones single-handedly revamped the program and was directly responsible for zero Class A and B mishaps in FY04, despite the school's enormous volume – 760 permanent personnel and 20,000 rotating students. Her efforts began with rewriting a safety SOP to include a new operational risk management leave and liberty checklist, as well as a leave and liberty brief. For every holiday or extended liberty period, Capt Jones produced an "all hands" safety message that reiterated the importance of safety and highlighted seasonal safety concerns. She then conducted a thorough walk-through inspection of the School of Infantry, which covers three geographical areas and more than 150 buildings. Captain Jones implemented a matrix system to address and track all safety issues, problems and corrective actions, and she also established a school safety council, which meets regularly under her newly revised safety plan. Captain Jones preserved a portion of her safety budget to aid the Safety Awards Program as an incentive to Marines of

all ranks to participate and to excel in operational safety on and off duty. She reenergized the school Arrive Alive program with local cab companies and reinvigorated the "anymouse" program. She also fostered semi-annual school-level safety programs that feature outside speakers on topics of vehicle safety; domestic violence; and drug, alcohol, and suicide awareness.

Captain Jones' effort earned her the Marine Corps Superior Achievement in Safety Award.

