



# The Safety Corner

From the  
Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned

August 1, 2008



## This Issue of the Safety Corner Highlights Non-Combat Injuries.

**From the Director:** The bar has been raised and the challenge conveyed by the Secretary of the Navy: "Reduce mishaps across the services by 75% in FY08", a challenge that Marines and Sailors should take to heart. This issue of the MCCLL Safety Corner takes another look at non-combat fatalities and injuries sustained by service members in support of the Global War On Terror, plus providing an update on this year's Critical Days of Summer Campaign.

Unfortunately, according to casualty and medical reports, non-combat injuries and illnesses are now the number one hazard in Iraq. Fortunately, most injuries are treated effectively, and most military members who suffer injuries eventually return to full duty. What's even more encouraging (or discouraging depending on how you look at it) is that many non-combat injuries can be prevented if you use and follow proper safety precautions.

The major causes of non-combat injuries are still injuries from sports, motor vehicle accidents, and falls, while the leading causes of non-combat deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan have been accidents and self inflicted injuries. Use these statistics to raise the awareness of Marines and Sailors concerning the potential for accidents and to take appropriate steps to reduce the risk where possible. Play hard, fight smart and keep complacency at bay. I look forward to your comments, observations, and concerns.

Semper Fidelis,

Col Monte Dunard, Director MCCLL

*Your ideas can be directed to the Marine Corps  
Center for Lessons Learned (MCCLL) Director,*

*Col Monte E. Dunard, USMCR*

*[monte.dunard@usmc.mil](mailto:monte.dunard@usmc.mil)*

Telephone: 703-432-1286 DSN: 378-1286

We welcome suggestions and comments on this Safety Corner. Please send your comments via e-mail to **feedback**, or you may contact us at (703) 432-1279.

AUGUST 2008

Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned  
Safety Corner



### Did You Know?

Since 2004, the number of injuries caused by negligent discharges (NDs) has risen. For the first half of FY08, six of 17 small-arms NDs have injured someone. Also, the number of ND incidents involving more senior, highly trained personnel is on the rise. In FY08, three of seventeen mishaps were caused by Small Arms Marksmanship Instructors (SAMIs). Four other mishaps were caused by E-5 thru E-7 personnel.

### Inside this issue:

#### Articles

<b>Welcome from the Director</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Dr. "G's" How It Goes</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Body's Healing Process</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Non-Combat Injuries</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Critical Days of Summer Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Fatality Summary</b>	<b>6</b>

<p><b>Marine Corps</b>  <b>64 Marines died in mishaps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Private Motor Vehicle: 44</li> <li>◆ Aviation: 2</li> <li>◆ Ground Operational Excluding MV: 5</li> <li>◆ Operational MV: 3</li> <li>◆ Off-duty Shore/Recreation: 10</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fatality Summary</b>  <b>Navy/Marine</b>  <b>142 Sailors and Marines died in mishaps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Private Motor Vehicle: 93 (65%)</li> <li>◆ Aviation: 6 (4%)</li> <li>◆ Surface Ships/Submarines (Excluding PT): 1 (1%)</li> <li>◆ Ashore Operational, Excluding MV: 11 (8%)</li> <li>◆ Operational MV: 4 (3%)</li> <li>◆ Off-duty Shore/Recreation: 27 (19%)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Navy</b>  <b>78 Sailors died in mishaps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Private Motor Vehicle: 49</li> <li>◆ Aviation: 4</li> <li>◆ Surface Ships/Submarines: 1</li> <li>◆ Ashore Operational, Excluding MV: 6</li> <li>◆ Operational MV: 1</li> <li>◆ Off-duty Shore/Recreation: 17</li> </ul>
---	--	---

MV = Motor Vehicle

**GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM— OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM**  
**By Casualty Category Within Service**

March 19, 2003 through July 5, 2008

Source: Defense Manpower Data Center [Casualty Category Within Service](#)

Casualty Type	Total	Army	Navy **	Marines	Air Force
Accident	488	345	13	117	13
Illness	77	60	9	5	3
Homicide	22	12	3	5	2
Self Inflicted	157	130	4	23	0
Undetermined	9	8	1	0	0
Pending	8	4	2	2	0
<b>Total Non Hostile Deaths</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>18</b>
Total—Non—Hostile Related Medical Air Transports	33,153	27,756	1,110	2,793	1,494
Non—Hostile Injuries Medical Air Transport Required ***	8,754	6,938	315	1,132	369
Diseases/Other Medical Air Transport Required ***	24,399	20,818	795	1,661	1,125
<b>Total—Non—Hostile Related Medical Air Transports Hostile and Non Hostile</b>	<b>42,395</b>	<b>34,732</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>4,803</b>	<b>1,586</b>

\*\* Navy totals include Coast Guard

From the moment a bone breaks or a ligament tears, your body goes to work to repair the damage. Here's what happens at each stage of the healing process:

- ◆ At the moment of injury: Chemicals are released from damaged cells, triggering a process called inflammation. Blood vessels at the injury site become dilated; blood flow increases to carry nutrients to the site of tissue damage.

- ◆ Within hours of injury: White blood cells (leukocytes) travel down the bloodstream to the injury site where they begin to tear down and remove damaged tissue, allowing other specialized cells to start developing scar tissue.
- ◆ Within days of injury: Scar tissue is formed on the skin or inside the body. The amount of scarring may be proportional to the amount of swelling, inflammation, or bleeding

within. In the next few weeks, the damaged area will regain a great deal of strength as scar tissue continues to form.

- ◆ Within a month of injury: Scar tissue may start to shrink, bringing damaged, torn, or separated tissues back together. However, it may be several months or more before the injury is completely healed.

## Non-Combat Injuries

April 2008 thru 21 July 2008

21 JUL 08	LCpl	MARINE HIT HIS HEAD ON ROCK PLAYING FOOTBALL.	
21 JUL 08	LCpl	MARINE WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED IN MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT.	
20 JUL 08	LCpl	MARINE CUT HIS ARM ON A PIECE OF GLASS AND SEVERED HIS ARTERY.	
20 JUL 08	Sgt	MARINE FOUND UNCONCIOUS ON ROADSIDE WITH MULTIPLE INJURIES AS A RESULT OF A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT.	
15 JUL 08	SSgt	MARINE SUSTAINED A JOINT SEPARATION CONDUCTING MCMAP TRAINING.	
14 JUL 08	LCpl	MARINE FRACTURED RIGHT TIBIA AND FIBULA WHILE FAST ROPING.	
14 JUL 08	Sgt	MARINE FLIPPED OVER ON DIRT BIKE AND BROKE TWO BONES IN HIS RIGHT ANKLE.	
08 JUL 08	PFC	MARINE INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT AND SUSTAINED POSSIBLE SPINAL INJURIES.	
07 JUL 08	Cpl	MARINE BROKE HIS FINGER PLAYING BASKETBALL.	
03 JUL 08	Sgt	MARINE LOST HIS BALANCE AND FELL HANGING A PICTURE.	
29 JUN 08	LCpl	MARINE SUSTAINED INTERNAL INJURIES TO HIS BOWEL FROM VEHICLE ACCIDENT.	
25 JUN 08	LCpl	MARINE SUSTAINED BROKEN ARM, LEG, AND MULTIPLE LACERATIONS IN MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT.	
22 JUN 08	LCpl	MARINE SUSTAINED A FRACTURED HUMERUS TO RIGHT ARM, FRACTURED HUMERUS TO LEFT ARM, ROAD RASH ON RIGHT KNEE AND LEFT FOOT IN MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT.	
20 JUN 08	LCpl	MARINE SUSTAINED FOUR FACIAL FRACTURES IN A FIGHT.	
20 JUN 08	LCpl	MARINE SUSTAINED BURNS TO 55% OF HIS BODY DURING A TANK LIVE FIRE EXERCISE.	
17 JUN 08	PO2	SAILOR CRUSHED RIGHT FINGER WHEN HER HAND WAS SLAMMED IN A DUMP TRUCK BED.	
14 JUN 08	LCpl	MARINE FRACTURED RIGHT ANKLE CONNECTING A HOWITZER TO A 7 TON MTRV.	
13 JUN 08	Cpl	MARINE FRACTURED RIGHT ANKLE REFUELING A CH-53E.	
12 JUN 08	LCpl	MARINE SUSTAINED NON-SPIRAL FRACTURE OF HIS LEFT FIBULA CONDUCTING MCMAP.	
19 JUN 08	LCpl	SUSTAINED A GRADE III CONCUSSION WHEN HE WAS PUSHED AND HIT HIS HEAD ON THE GROUND.	
09 JUN 08	Sgt	MARINE CAUGHT HIS RIGHT ARM IN THE TURRET OF A LAV-25 BREAKING HIS CLAVICAL AND BRUISED HIS RIGHT LUNG.	

- 06 JUN 08 LCpl MARINE SUSTAINED A SNAKE BITE PARTICIPATING IN A COBRA SHOW.
- 15 MAY 08 SSgt MARINE SUSTAINED DAMAGE TO HIS ANKLE AND LEG IN A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT.
- 18 MAY 08 LCpl MARINE SUSTAINED LACERATIONS AND POSSIBLE INTERNAL INJURIES IN A PMV ACCIDENT.
- 13 MAY 08 LCpl MARINE SUSTAINED GUNSHOT TO RIGHT FOOT FROM A NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE.
- 05 MAY 08 LCpl MARINE SUSTAINED LACERATION TO RIGHT KNEE AND PUNCTURE WOUNDS FROM SCRAPING HIS KNEE ON AN EXPOSED METAL SCREW.
- 02 MAY 08 PFC MARINE SUSTAINED HEAD TRAUMA AND INTERNAL INJURIES AFTER FALLING FROM THE 4TH DECK OF HIS BEQ.
- 01 MAY 08 Cpl MARINE SUSTAINED COMPOUND FRACTURE TO HIS LEFT ARM AFTER ATTEMPTING TO SCALE A WALL.
- 28 APR 08 MARINE SUSTAINED BROKEN LEG, SPINAL FRACTURE IN HMMWV ROLLOVER.
- 23 APR 08 Cpl MARINE SUSTAINED GUNSHOT (CLEANING WEAPON) TO LEG SHATTERING HIS LEFT TIBIA AT MID-CALF.
- 21 APR 08 CWO2 MARINE SUSTAINED UNKNOWN HEAD TRAUMA IN MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT.
- 21 APR 08 Cpl MARINE DISCOVERED ON ROADSIDE WITH COMPOUND FRACTURE TO RIGHT ARM, LACERATION TO THE FACE, AND A BROKEN LEFT LEG.



PMV Counter		6 Aug 08
<b>Number of days since the last fatality</b>		
9	2-Wheel - USN	
1	4-Wheel - USN	
11	2-Wheel - USMC	
32	4-Wheel - USMC	

- 21 APR 08 PFC MARINE SUSTAINED ABDOMINAL AND BACK INJURIES IN SINGLE VEHICLE ACCIDENT.
- 21 APR 08 PFC MARINE SUSTAINED SEVERE FRACTURES TO THE SKULL IN SINGLE VEHICLE ACCIDENT.
- 21 APR 08 MARINE SPRAINED ANKLE WHILE RUNNING.
- 19 APR 08 MARINE LACERATED SHIN ON GYM EQUIPMENT WHILE WORKING OUT.
- 18 APR 08 MARINE SUSTAINED AN ANKLE INJURY PLAYING BASKETBALL.

- 16 APR 08 SSgt MARINE SUSTAINED SEVERAL BROKEN RIBS AND FRACTURED VERTEBRA WHEN HE LOST CONTROL OF THE MOTORCYCLE HE WAS RIDING.
- 14 APR 08 MARINE CUT HIS FINGER WITH A KNIFE WHILE WORKING.
- 14 APR 08 LCpl MARINE SUSTAINED INJURIES TO FINGERS ON HIS HAND MOVING A 55 GALLON DRUM.
- 12 APR 08 Cpl MARINE SUSTAINED FRACTURE AND TISSUE DAMAGE TO FINGER DURING M249 TRAINING.
- 09 APR 08 MARINE TRIPPED WHILE UNLOADING A TACTICAL VEHICLE, INJURING HIS KNEE.
- 08 APR 08 MARINE FELL WHILE WRESTLING, SUSTAINED INJURY TO THE FACE.
- 07 APR 08 LCpl MARINE FELL OFF OF MTRV WHILE LOADING, SUSTAINING POSSIBLE HEAD AND BACK INJURIES.
- 04 APR 08 MARINE INJURED FINGER CLIMBING OUT OF MRAP.



# Critical Days of Summer Fatalities Summary

## Navy Mishaps

Date	Type	Description
20 Jul 08	Rec	Student found dead. Cause of death unknown pending autopsy.
19 Jul 08	4-Wh	E-5 was killed in a two-vehicle crash when the vehicle she was driving was T-boned on the drivers side by an SUV at an intersection.
11 Jul 08	2-Wh	BU2 was killed when he was involved in a motorcycle crash while traveling at high speed. BU2 lost control, ran off the road, impacted a tree and was pronounced dead at the scene.
03 Jul 08	2-Wh	E-5 was killed after being involved in a rear-end collision between the motorcycle he was riding and a truck.
26 Jun 08	2-Wh	At 2030, a 22-year-old E-4 was involved in a motorcycle crash while racing with a 34-year-old E-5. The E-4 lost control and crashed. He died from his injuries on 28 Jun. The E-5 was arrested. Both were under the influence.
25 Jun 08	2-Wh	E-5 motorcyclist was killed when the bike she was riding hit a guard rail on I-64 in Virginia Beach, VA.
22 Jun 08	2-Wh	AO1 killed when he lost control of his motorcycle.
21 Jun 08	Rec	E-2 (recent RTC graduate) was killed by a train while crossing tracks to get to commuter train stop. Four other RTC graduates crossed uninjured.
19 Jun 08	4-Wh	E-2 was killed on Interstate 8, 70 miles east of his new duty station.
09 Jun 08	2-Wh	E-5 on a motorcycle was traveling at high speed and ran into the rear of another vehicle and died.
07 Jun 08	Rec	DCFA was found unresponsive in his room at the barracks after heavy drinking and ingestion of an unknown substance from which he died.
31 May 08	4-Wh	E-3 was involved in a 4-wheel vehicle accident. The E-3 was not wearing a seatbelt and was pronounced dead at the scene.
30 May 08	2-Wh	E-2 lost control of his motorcycle in a curve and crashed into a catwalk on the shoulder of the road way.
26 May 08	2-Wh	EN3 died in a 4-motorcycle crash involving an automobile.
26 May 08	Rec	Air Force 2ndLT assigned to Navy found dead from apparent drowning.

## Marine Corps Mishaps

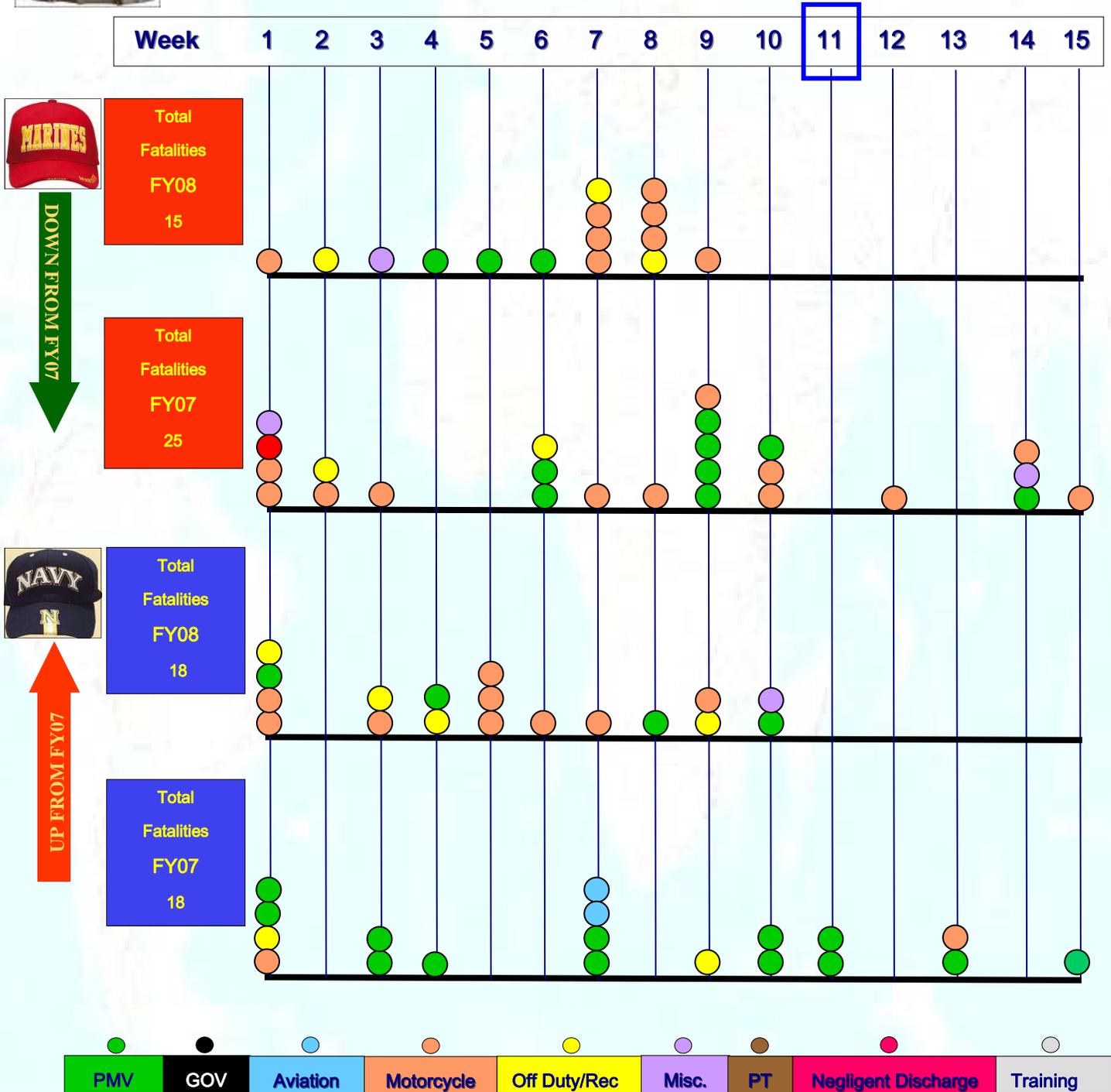
Date	Type	Description
19 Jul 08	2-Wh	2ndLT was traveling east on highway 24 when his motorcycle struck another vehicle at an intersection. He was pronounced dead at the scene.
17 Jul 08	2-Wh	Sgt was killed after losing control of his motorcycle, striking a telephone pole and a fence.
17 Jul 08	Off Duty	1stLT was inside of his accommodations aboard United Kingdom Forward Operating Base Dwyer when the roof, which was under repair at the time, collapsed above him.
12 Jul 08	2-Wh	GySgt died in a hospital after he and his passenger were thrown from the motorcycle they were riding. After losing control, he left the roadway and crashed down an embankment.
11 Jul 08	2-Wh	Sgt riding on a motorcycle collided with a guardrail, was ejected from the motorcycle and sustained fatal injuries.
09 Jul 08	Rec	LCpl was found unresponsive after a night of drinking.
06 Jul 08	2-Wh	LCpl and his passenger were killed in a motorcycle crash with a trailer.
06 Jul 08	2-Wh	SSgt killed in a motorcycle crash when his motorcycle veered off the road striking a curb, then impacting a tree.
05 Jul 08	2-Wh	Cpl died of injuries he received when involved in a motorcycle crash after hitting a curb and being thrown to street.
29 Jun 08	4-Wh	HM- assigned to Camp Pendleton, his wife and 4 year old son were killed when the car they were driving was struck head on by the driver of a pick-up truck that crossed the double yellow lines.
22 Jun 08	4-Wh	LCpl was passenger in a vehicle involved in a head-on collision.
17 Jun 08	4-Wh	Sgt was killed when his vehicle left the road and hit a tree.
08 Jun 08	Ped	Pvt departed a social event and was walking in the road when he was struck by a civilian vehicle and killed.
04 Jun 08	Rec	Cpl was found dead on ground below 7th story hotel balcony.
28 May 08	2-Wh	LCpl who was TAD to Recruiting Substation, died after being involved in a motorcycle accident when his motorcycle crashed into a building.

# Critical Days of Summer Fatalities Aug 08



*Working without safety is a dead-end job.*

Author Unknown



Note: This report has been compiled from publicly available information. Although information has been gathered from reliable sources the currency and completeness of the information reported herein is subject to change and cannot be guaranteed.