

Safety Dog
Wants You



To Be Safe!



The Safety Corner

From the Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned

March 4, 2009



This Issue of the Safety Corner Highlights Bloodborne Pathogens.

From the Director: Marines and Sailors have always been interested in body art, which includes tattoos, body piercings and brandings. Today the possibilities for using our bodies to express ourselves is unlimited, from our clothes and permanent make-up to using surgery to obtain that unique look. Tattoos once considered a James Dean rebel kind of thing, is not only popular in the Services, but has become mainstream for many men, women, boys and girls around the world.

While the acceptance has grown, there are some serious health considerations you should know about before you get that tattoo or piercing; things like what facility to use and what "artist" to ask to do the handiwork. There are health risks involved if the conditions of the facility are unsanitary. Even when performed with the utmost safety precautions, sometimes things do go wrong. You might experience a reaction from the ink, the metals, or a product used during or after the procedure. More importantly, you might be exposed to blood-borne pathogens, such as the Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which can be spread when you come in contact with the blood of an infected person. So you think you're ready to get that tattoo or piercing?

Remember, some tattoos' and piercing are permanent, so before you act, read MCO P1020.34G and ask yourself, why am I doing this and what does it mean to me? Choose the facility carefully and make sure the establishment is reputable and licensed to perform these procedures. We encourage you to pass on and post this newsletter for widest dissemination. Log on to www.mccll.usmc.mil to download previous editions of the Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned Safety Corner as well as our Monthly Newsletters. I look forward to receiving your comments and feedback so we can raise awareness, reduce risk and maintain a high level of readiness.

Semper Fidelis,
Col Monte Dunard, Director MCCLL

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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.



Did You Know?

Tattoos have been around for a long time. Throughout history, tattoos were mostly worn as decorations. They've been found on mummified bodies dating back to 3300 BC, and it's well known that many societies wore (and still wear) tattoos as part of their culture.

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MARCH 2009

Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned
Safety Corner

ALMAR 014/07

Date signed: 03/19/2007 MARADMIN Number: 014/07

Subject: CHANGES TO THE MARINE CORPS TATTOO POLICY

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SUBJ/CHANGES TO THE MARINE CORPS TATTOO POLICY//

POC/S.T. FOSTER/CAPT/MPO/-/TEL:DSN 278-9387//

GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. HIGH STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL MILITARY APPEARANCE REMAIN A PART OF OUR MARINE CORPS HERITAGE. WE SERVE PROUDLY IN EVERY REGION OF THE WORLD, IN PEACE AND IN COMBAT, FULFILLING OUR ROLE OF AMERICA'S AMBASSADORS AND DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM. THE EYES OF AMERICA AND THE WORLD CONTINUALLY FOCUS UPON US AND THEY EXPECT THAT THE MARINE CORPS WILL MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AT ALL TIMES.

2. RECENTLY, I HAVE BECOME CONCERNED OVER THE GROWING TREND OF TATTOOING IN OUR CORPS. I UNDERSTAND MANY TATTOOS ARE IN GOOD TASTE AND MANY REPRESENT PRIDE FOR OUR CORPS OR REMEMBRANCE OF FALLEN COMRADES; HOWEVER, I BELIEVE TATTOOS OF AN EXCESSIVE NATURE DO NOT REPRESENT OUR TRADITIONAL VALUES. SOME MARINES HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF TATTOOING THEMSELVES TO A POINT THAT IS CONTRARY TO OUR PROFESSIONAL DEMEANOR AND THE HIGH STANDARDS AMERICA HAS COME TO EXPECT FROM US. MARINES MUST UNDERSTAND THAT ACQUIRING EXCESSIVE TATTOOS MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT BOTH THEIR RETENTION AND ASSIGNMENT TO SPECIAL DUTY.

3. TO THAT END, I DIRECTED A THOROUGH REVISION OF OUR TATTOO POLICY. THE POLICY CHANGES RESULTING FROM THIS REVIEW WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A MARADMIN, RELEASED CONCURRENTLY WITH THIS ALMAR. COMMANDERS MUST ENSURE THEIR MARINES ARE EDUCATED REGARDING CHANGES TO THE MARINE CORPS TATTOO POLICY.

4. SEMPER FIDELIS, JAMES T. CONWAY, GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS, COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS.//



If you're thinking about getting a tattoo, there is one very important thing you have to keep in mind; getting it done safely. Although it might look a whole lot cooler than a big scab, a new tattoo is also a wound. Like any other slice, scrape, puncture, cut, or penetration to your skin, a tattoo is at risk for infections and disease.

First, make sure you're up to date with your immunizations (especially hepatitis and tetanus shots) and plan where you'll get medical care if your tattoo becomes infected (signs of infection include excessive redness or tenderness around the tattoo, prolonged bleeding, pus, or changes in your skin color around the tattoo).

If you have a medical problem such as heart disease, allergies, diabetes, skin disorders, a condition that affects your immune system or infection, or if you are pregnant ask your doctor if there are any special concerns you should have or precautions you should take beforehand. Also, if you're prone to getting keloids (an overgrowth of scar tissue in the area of the wound), it's probably best to avoid getting a tattoo altogether.

It's very important to make sure the tattoo studio is clean and safe, and that all equipment used is disposable (in the case of needles, gloves, masks, etc.) and sterilized (everything else). Some states, cities, and communities set up standards for tattoo studios, but others don't. You can call your state, county, or local health department to find out about the laws in your community, ask for recommendations on licensed tattoo shops, or check for any complaints about a particular studio.

Professional studios usually take pride in their cleanliness. Here are some things to check for:

- ◆ Make sure the tattoo studio has an autoclave (a device that uses steam, pressure, and heat for sterilization).
- ◆ You should be allowed to watch as equipment is sterilized in the autoclave.
- ◆ Check that the tattoo artist is a licensed practitioner. If so, the tattoo artist should be able to provide you with references.
- ◆ Be sure that the tattoo studio follows the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Universal Precautions.

These are regulations that outline procedures to be followed when dealing with bodily fluids (in this case, blood). If the studio looks unclean, if anything looks out of the ordinary, or if you feel in any way uncomfortable, find a better place to get your tattoo.

Infected Tattoos

Source: [LoveToKnow](#)

About Infected Tattoos

Getting a new tattoo is an elating experience, but that initial joy fades quickly when things go wrong. Infected tattoos are not all that rare, so it's in your best interest to make sure your tattoo artist is properly licensed and operates out of a clean shop. This is your first and best opportunity to ensure you have a good experience, but it won't provide total protection against developing an infection later on. It's also important that you follow up on after care instructions and also learn how to recognize an infection before you commit to ink. A little education can go a long way toward preserving your health.

What Causes Infection

Tattooing creates thousands of tiny puncture wounds in your skin as the ink is delivered beneath the outer layers. Your skin is your first line of defense against bacterial invasion, so poking holes in it is like opening a door and inviting germs in. Therefore it's extremely important to follow the after care instructions you receive from your artist to promote quick healing. While some tattoo infections are the result of improper tattooing methods, many more infected tattoos can be attributed to poor follow up care by the person receiving the tattoo. Not keeping the area clean and restricting fresh air to the site results in conditions that promote bacterial growth. Allowing clothing to rub the area, failing to apply a proper ointment to create a protective barrier over the wound, and generally ignoring your new tattoo can all contribute to an infection.

The Difference Between Normal Healing and an Infection

Most tattoos look at least a little irritated during the healing period. After the first day, it's important to wash the tattoo twice a day using a very mild soap, using just your fingertips to lightly smooth over the area. Once you've rinsed the area completely clean, you should pat it dry with a fresh paper towel. Avoid scrubbing to help ensure you don't damage the tissue during this delicate period. This will also help you preserve your ink. Once the tattoo is dry, you should apply a thin layer of the type of ointment recommended by your tattoo artist. The initial irritation should begin to subside in a few days as the needle punctures heal. During this time it's normal to see light brownish scabbing. You'll also likely develop a thin, whitish crust that comes from the clear lymph fluid secreted during the healing process. This is healthy, and shouldn't be picked at or scraped off. The crust helps seal the skin from outside organisms that can cause infection, so it's a good thing. If you notice any of the following signs, there's a chance your tattoo is becoming infected.

Watch for: An increase, rather than a decrease in redness and irritation at the tattoo site — Heat radiating from the tattoo
More than minimal swelling — Any discharge that is cloudy, yellow or green — Any foul odor emanating from the tattoo
Above normal body temperature, typically anything above 99 degrees F — Muscle aches

Some people look at tattoos as pieces of art. Others look at tattoos as tacky and in poor taste. Both parties, however, can agree that an infected tattoo is bad news. This can be caused by dirty inking practices or improper tattoo care. Infections are extremely dangerous if they are not properly cared for. Not only do they cause a lot of pain, they also have the ability to kill a person if untreated. Never let your infection get out of hand. If you ever question whether your tattoo is infected, consult a doctor. Follow these steps to do your own personal tattoo infection exam.

Step1 Consider whether you have severe pain. You won't even have to touch your tattoo to know if you have serious pain. The pain will be present if you have an infection even when you do not touch the wound.

Step2 Look at your tattoo to determine if the area is swollen. The entire area may be swollen, or only the area where the ink is visible. For example, if you have a heart tattoo on your forearm, you may have a swollen heart on your arm, or you entire arm may be swollen.

Step3 Check for any redness on the tattoo site. Some redness is normal right after you get the tattoo, but severe redness accompanied by heat to the touch is bad. This could indicate infection.

Step4 Check for discharge. Puss is whitish or yellowish in color and seeps from infection sites. It can stick to clothing. Puss is a clear sign there is infection, whether it is accompanied by blood or not.

Step5 Smell your tattoo. Infections tend to emit foul odors. Many times, the odor comes from the puss. You may smell the infection before you see it.

If you suspect your body art has become infected, don't ignore it. An infection that reaches the blood stream can be life threatening.

REMEMBER: Whenever the skin is penetrated with a needle or other device, there is always the possibility of infections, especially bloodborne diseases, like hepatitis or HIV, so be careful and be safe.

To decrease your chance of getting infected tattoos:

Choose a reputable artist/shop.

Follow after care instruction to the letter.

Watch closely for any sign of infection.

Contact your artist immediately for an evaluation if you suspect a problem.

Follow up with your physician for further care.

Things To Consider

Source: [Tattoos](#)



People are much happier with their body art when:

- ◆ They are not feeling pressured or under stress.
- ◆ They spent time thinking about whether they will still like their body art in the years to come and in any social situation. Tattoos, brands, and some forms of body piercing are **PERMANENT**. They come with no money-back guarantees. While tattoos can sometimes be removed by a laser procedure, this can cost anywhere from ten to forty times the cost of the tattooing and may still leave a scar.

Consider a two-step procedure.

1. Have a stencil of the design applied first and receive the actual tattoo on a subsequent day.
2. Consider taking a friend or a support person along when getting your body art. This may enhance your level of comfort during the procedure.

Choose the artist and studio carefully.

Prior to getting your body art, talk to others who have used that artist, whether they still like their art and about any concerns they had.

Find out the answers to the following questions by talking to other clients and by asking directly:

- ◆ Is the artist experienced and qualified to do the tattoo, piercing, or branding?
- ◆ Is the artist vaccinated for Hepatitis B?
- ◆ Is the artist certified by the Alliance for Professional Tattooists (APT)?
- ◆ Has the artist completed any training and are certificates available for you to see?

Think Before You Ink:

- ◆ Currently, there are no uniform training programs, licensing procedures for body artists, or laws governing what they do.
- ◆ Is the artist readily available if complications occur, and how has he/she managed them in the past?
- ◆ What hygienic standards does the artist practice?

What is Hepatitis? The word "hepatitis" means inflammation of the liver. Toxins, certain drugs, some diseases, heavy alcohol use, bacterial and viral infections can all cause hepatitis. Hepatitis is also the name of a family of viral infections that affect the liver; the most common types in the United States are hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.



Where They are

- ◆ Blood and Potentially Infectious Materials.
- ◆ Semen
- ◆ Cerebrospinal Fluid
- ◆ Vaginal Secretions
- ◆ Breast Milk
- ◆ Synovial Fluid
- ◆ Amniotic Fluid
- ◆ Skin tissue, cell cultures.
- ◆ Saliva, Vomit, and Urine.

Hepatitis A is an acute liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV), lasting from a few weeks to several months. It does not lead to chronic infection.



Transmission: Ingestion of fecal matter, even in microscopic amounts, from close person-to-person contact or ingestion of contaminated food or drinks.

Vaccination: Hepatitis A vaccination is recommended for all children starting at age 1 year, travelers to certain countries, and others at risk.

A good tattoo is not cheap, and a cheap tattoo could cause you some serious health problems.

Hepatitis B is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). It ranges in severity from a mild illness, lasting a few weeks (acute), to a serious long-term (chronic) illness that can lead to liver disease or liver cancer.



Transmission: Contact with infectious blood, semen, and other body fluids from having sex with an infected person, sharing contaminated needles to inject drugs, or from an infected mother to her newborn.

Vaccination: Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for all infants, older children and adolescents who were not vaccinated previously, and adults at risk for HBV infection.

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). HCV infection sometimes results in an acute illness, but most often becomes a chronic condition that can lead to cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer.



Transmission: Contact with the blood of an infected person, primarily through sharing contaminated needles to inject drugs.

Vaccination: There is no vaccine for hepatitis C.

It's strongly advised for people who have tattoos to get a Hepatitis check, and soon. Hepatitis can lie unnoticed for many years while doing serious damage. The sooner hepatitis is detected the better the chances for survival. If you have a tattoo, get checked.

Hepatitis D is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV) and relies on HBV to replicate. It is uncommon in the United States.



Transmission: Contact with infectious blood, similar to how HBV is spread.

Vaccination: There is no vaccine for hepatitis D.

Hepatitis E is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis E virus (HEV) that usually results in an acute infection. It does not lead to a chronic infection. While rare in the United States, hepatitis E is common in many parts of the world.



Transmission: Ingestion of fecal matter, even in microscopic amounts; outbreaks are usually associated with contaminated water supply in countries with poor sanitation.

Vaccination: There is currently no FDA-approved vaccine for hepatitis E.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

- ◆ HIV virus that leads to AIDS.
- ◆ Primarily of concern to personnel providing first aid or medical care in situations involving fresh blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- ◆ Estimated chance of contracting HIV in a workplace environment is negligible.
- ◆ Precautions must be taken to avoid exposure.

Modes of Transmission

Blood or other infectious material could enter your system via:

- ◆ Unprotected opening in the skin
- ◆ Unprotected mucus membrane openings
- ◆ Penetration of the skin
- ◆ Accidental puncture from wreckage material could result in transmission.

The Marine Corps has updated its policy on tattoo sleeves as it pertains to special duty assignments. Per Marine Administrative Message 494/08, signed Sept. 4, 2008 Marines with tattoo sleeves are no longer authorized to serve as a recruiter or Marine Security Guard. This applies to those Marines who had their sleeves grandfathered prior to the July 1, 2007 deadline, stated in the March 2007 MarAdmin, which prohibits getting sleeve tattoos.



It defined sleeve tattoos as a large tattoo or collection of smaller tattoos that covers or almost covers a person's arm or leg. This also includes half and quarter sleeves if they are visible in green-on-green, physical training gear.



According to the newly-signed MarAdmin, recruiters and Marine security guards have a significant impact on public perception as they routinely interact with civilians, both at home and aboard, in the daily performance of their duties. Marines, who have been grandfathered, may still apply for Marine combat instructor, drill instructor or Marine Corps security forces guard.

"Sleeve tattoos degrade our professional Marine image," said Staff Sgt. Aaron McMullen, canvassing recruiter, Recruiting Substation Clarksville, IN, Recruiting Station Louisville, Ky. "We keep our uniforms pressed, our brass shiny and our shoes polished. Sleeve tattoos don't fit with that image."

Marines with tattoo sleeves who are already on recruiting duty will be allowed to finish their tours; however, recruiters wishing to submit a career-recruiter package "may not be favorably viewed" but will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The decision will ultimately rest with the Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

According to Staff Sgt. Matthew E. Nale, career retention specialist, Headquarters and Service Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Marines interested in applying for recruiting or MSG need to get all their tattoos, visible and not visible, documented and entered into their service record book. Any tattoo deemed questionable by the Marine's commanding officer will be forwarded to Manpower and Reserve Affairs for their review.

Since all Marines' tattoos are documented before they go on a special assignment, noncommissioned officers are the first line of defense when it comes to a young service member making an irrational decision in ink, according to Gunnery Sgt. Mark O'Hare, company gunnery sergeant, HQSVCBN, MarForPac and former recruiter out of Kansas City.

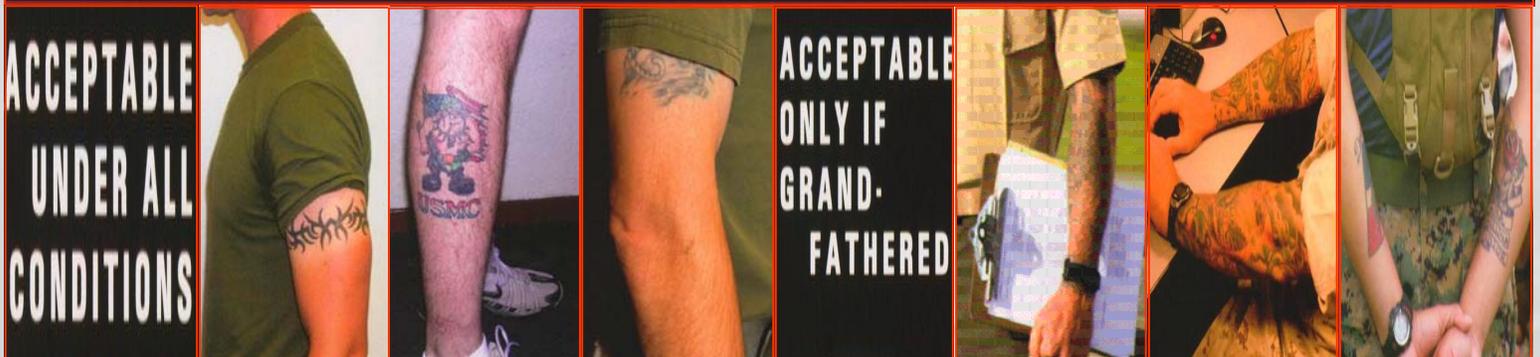
"As NCO's, the most important issue is to ensure you're very familiar with the tattoo policy to include what a quarter, half and full sleeve look like," he said. "When considering a tattoo, any tattoo as big as your fist and visible in PT gear is most likely not authorized."



Did You Know?

Excessive tattoos may adversely affect both your retention and assignment to special duty.

**Are You Grandfathered?
If You Are Grandfathered, All Doors Are Open.**



Safety Corner Feedback

The Safety Corner invites you to share your opinions with other readers. Comments will only be published with permission.

I appreciate the efforts to educate and inform us about alcohol use, but in this case, as well as in the rise of suicide and other social pathologies, education is of limited benefit based on my 25 years in the MC. These problems are indicative of deep rooted issues within the institution itself. Our efforts to centrally mandate, train, educate, and CYA document undermines those vital aspects of organization that had kept us relatively immune from these social pathologies and most importantly combat ready.

r/s
MLG

I used to listen to that Gil Scott song frequently growing up. Like you, I didn't know what he meant. But now I share your revelation. I watched alcohol ruin my father all the way to his death bed. Please know that I will do all that I can to keep our Marines, Sailors and civilian Marines from getting caught up in binge drinking. Thank you for your commitment to safety and know that your message is getting through.

Semper Fidelis
Respectfully Submitted,
ELM

SgtsMaj/MGySgts/CMDCMs,

It is some very important info in the attachment to pass on to our NCOs/Pos for PME's to Marines/Sailors. Thanks.

Semper Fi.
SgtMaj Kent

It is worth adding to this that the common belief that airbags will save you even if you are not wearing a seatbelt is false. Almost all cars that have airbags have computer chips that detect whether or not the seatbelt is in fact buckled. If the seatbelt is not buckled, then the computer prevents the airbags from firing. This is why airbags are technically known as Supplemental Restraint Systems (SRS). The engineers build the crash cages so that the seatbelt locks you in place by firing a small cartridge to retract the belt, and the computer algorithm is written so that the airbag fires to protect the person who should be restrained by the performance of the seatbelt. I know this from the investigation conducted after a crash in which I was involved. I had five weeks in Landstuhl to read that and think it through.

Very respectfully,
D.J. Thieme

Quick Links & Favorites



USMC and USN Mishap Summary

USMC AVIATION CLASS A MISHAPS

29 Dec 08 AV-8B crashed on PAR final approach, pilot died.

USMC GROUND CLASS A

09 Feb 09 (Camp Lejeune) E-5 died after being struck in the chest by a ricochet bullet while pulling targets at the shooting range.

USMC OPERATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE

23 Oct 08 (Hauula, HI) One civilian was killed when a 7-ton tactical vehicle collided head-on with civilian vehicle.

09 Oct 08 (Afghanistan) E-4 died in a HMMWV accident when the vehicle rolled over while he was in the turret gunner position.

USMC PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES

14 Feb 09 (Oceanside, CA) E-4 died in a motorcycle mishap.

31 Jan 09 (San Diego, CA) E-3 died when her vehicle went out of control, struck a barrier and caught fire. Speed was a factor.

20 Jan 09 (Milton, PA) Two E-2's died and one E-2 was critically injured when their vehicle crossed over the median into oncoming traffic.

15 Jan 09 (Sneads Ferry, NC) E-4 died in a motorcycle mishap when he lost control of the motorcycle and collided with an oncoming vehicle.

13 Jan 09 (Salton City, CA) E-4 died in a motorcycle accident when he failed to negotiate a turn and he departed the roadway.

27 Nov 08 (Greeleyville, SC) E-6 died when his vehicle ran off the road and he was ejected from the vehicle.

22 Nov 08 (Vista, CA) Two E-3's died in an automobile accident when their vehicle struck a tree and caught fire.

08 Nov 08 (Arlington, VA) PFC died when he was struck by a vehicle while walking on a highway.

03 Nov 08 (Pensacola, FL) E-2 died in a motorcycle accident when he lost control and struck a tree.

02 Nov 08 (Jacksonville, NC) E-3 died when the vehicle in which he was a passenger struck a parked car and flipped.

17 Oct 08 (Phoenix, AZ) E-7 died in a motorcycle accident when he ran into the side of a vehicle that failed to stop at a red light.

USMC OFF-DUTY/RECREATIONAL FATALITIES

07 Mar 09 (Imperial Sand Dunes, CA) E-4 died in an ATV mishap.

14 Dec 08 (Fallbrook, CA) E-4 died from excessive consumption of alcohol.

23 Nov 08 (Edith Falls, Australia) E-3 died in a recreational swimming mishap.

11 Nov 08 (Spring Hill, FL) O-5 died in a recreational scuba diving mishap.

08 Nov 08 (Onna, Japan) E-4 drowned while snorkeling after experiencing rough water conditions.

02 Nov 08 (Phoenix, AZ) E-4 died when a shotgun accidentally discharged as he was retrieving it from his vehicle.

13 Oct 08 (Camp Lejeune, NC) E-2 died from excessive consumption of alcohol.

09 Oct 08 (Port Richie, FL) E-3 died from excessive consumption of alcohol.

USN AVIATION CLASS A MISHAPS (includes FRMs not included in the Flight Slide)

04 Oct 08 F/A-18F struck a Sailor on flight deck during catapult launch. 1 fatality. (FLT REL)

04 Oct 08 Helicopter struck tailboom of lead helicopter during landing resulting in hard landing and rollover. 1 non-DOD fatality.

USN AFLOAT CLASS A MISHAPS

04 Feb 09 SVCMN lost at sea when RHIB flipped while being lowered into the water when tending line became hooked on crane cable.

USN SHORE CLASS A MISHAPS

17 Feb 09 (Ft. Jackson, SC) O-5 died in a training mishap.

25 Dec 08 (Bahrain) Navy RHIB collided with a moored barge resulting in 1 fatality and 2 injuries.

USN PHYSICAL TRAINING CLASS A MISHAPS

30 Jan 09 (Naples, IT) O-6 died shortly after complaining of stomach pain during semi-annual PRT.

USN PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES

07 Mar 09 (Norfolk, VA) E-4 died when his motorcycle struck another vehicle.

02 Feb 09 (Tulare County, CA) E-4 died when his car was struck by a drunk driver traveling northbound in southbound lane.

01 Feb 09 (San Bernardino, CA) E-4 died when his car was struck from behind and caught fire.

10 Jan 09 (Ojai, CA) E-6 died in motorcycle mishap when he drifted over the center line and collided with an oncoming vehicle during a group ride.

03 Jan 09 (Lafayette, LA) E-3 died when his vehicle rolled over into water and submerged.

07 Dec 08 (San Diego, CA) E-4 died when his vehicle departed the roadway while negotiating an interstate on-ramp. Alcohol was a factor.

15 Nov 08 (Nassau, FL) E-4 died when the vehicle in which he was a passenger veered into the median barrier and he was ejected from the vehicle.

08 Nov 08 (Big Bear, CA) CW05 on terminal leave died when his cruiser motorcycle drifted into oncoming traffic while rounding a curve.

10 Oct 08 (Boron, CA) E-4 died in automobile accident when he swerved into oncoming traffic and collided head-on with another vehicle.

05 Oct 08 (Spring View, CA) E-5 died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.

01 Oct 08 (Kleberg County, TX) O-2 died when he was struck by an automobile while riding his bicycle.

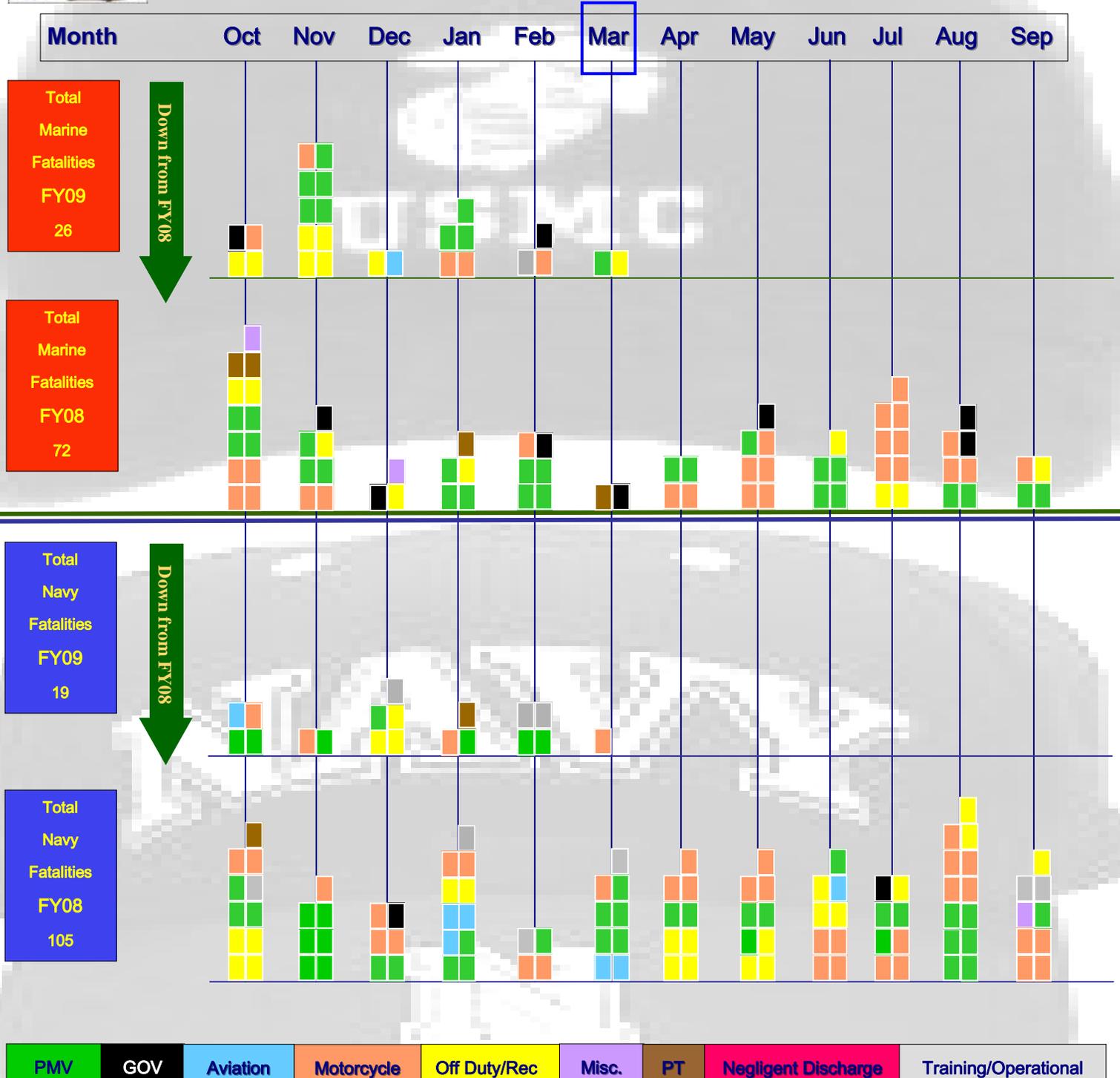
USN OFF-DUTY/RECREATIONAL FATALITIES

28 Dec 08 (Lombard, IL) E-2 died after being hit by freight train while walking on tracks.

Fatality Summary as of March 09



"Our insignificance is often the cause of our safety."
 Aesop



Note: This report has been compiled from publicly available information and is not official USMC policy. 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.