



U. S. MARINE CORPS FORCES COMMAND 2015 Thanksgiving Safety Message

Thanksgiving is traditionally a time spent enjoying holiday festivities with family and friends. It also offers an opportunity to give thanks for the blessings in our lives including the Marines and Sailors deployed globally in defense of our freedoms.

I challenge all leaders to continue your personal commitment to safety and welfare of the Marines, Sailors and civilian Marines in your charge. Your engaged leadership is a pivotal factor in preserving our warriors and those who support them. Explain the “Protect What You’ve Earned” campaign concepts. Reinforce the dangers involved in excessive alcohol consumption, the loss potential and the detrimental impact it can have on our Corps values of honor, courage and commitment. Displaying responsible behavior, making smart decisions, and using risk management are traits expected of every Marine, Sailor, and civilian, and there is no compromise in these areas.

Holidays are increase travel on our nation’s roadways, and the Thanksgiving weekend ranks among the busiest. Travel preparations demand the same detailed attention and vigor of any combat mission. Prepare your Marines and Sailors with the necessary tools to enable them to arrive at their destination and return to base safely. Engage those driving long distances to ensure their travel plans and identify the inherent risks involved: fatigue, distractions, and impaired driving. Promote the use of pre-departure safety briefs, motor vehicle inspections, and travel risks, using online “TRiPS” assessments to optimize safety and mitigate known hazards.

Continue to advocate for safety and remain steadfast in your commitment to the Corps, to each other, and to our warriors. On behalf of the MARFORCOM staff, I wish each of you and your families a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Semper Fidelis,
Brigadier General (Select) Bradford J. Gering
Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command