Tips to Stay Safe
on Social Media Sites

Social media sites are great tools to keep in touch with family and friends, but they are also platforms for people who don't have your best interest in mind to get your personal information. To ensure you limit your personal information to those you like and love and protect yourself from those who would like to do you harm, consider and practice the following tips.

1. Privacy Settings.

- Each social media site allows for all of your private profile information, as well as your posts, to be viewable by the public if you don't set the site's privacy settings to your desired level.
- Keep personal information away from others by setting your security settings to include only friends.
- Go through each of the privacy settings on each site that you frequent, and set them accordingly.
- Be on the lookout for geo-tracking features and turn them off -- certain sites will track your physical location via a cell phone app, providing your exact whereabouts at any given time.

2. Content.

- Even with the strictest security settings in place, remember that there are certain details of your personal lives that if made public could be a security concern for you, your family or the Marine Corps.
- Information such as unit movements, deployments, personnel rosters and weapons information should never be posted online.
- Don't share private information such as where your children go to school, home addresses, phone numbers and times and locations of events you plan to attend, or other information that allows someone to track your routines and possibly guess when and where you or your family might be.

Additional guidance for online activity may be found at the following Web pages:

1. 15 tips to stay safe and out of trouble online (http://marines.dodlive.mil/social/15-tips-to-stay-safe-and-out-of-trouble-online/).

2. Social Media Guidance for Unofficial Posts (http://www.marines.mil/News/SocialMedia/Guidance.aspx).

3. Social Media Handbook (http://marines.dodlive.mil/files/2012/01/Marines-Social-Media-Handbook.pdf).