



DUI Awareness

2019 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER NEWSLETTER

WEEK 8: 15 JULY

**DRUNK
DRIVING
CLAIMS A
LIFE EVERY**

**48
MINUTES**

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What a DUI Taught Me

Brittany, a pre-med student at the University of Pittsburgh, was a driven, responsible young adult with a bright future. She was at a family party on July 4th when she made her mistake.

"I thought I was okay to get behind a wheel," she said. "I was not. I lost control of my new car and rolled more than 3 times. My BAC was 0.162, and as a level 1 trauma (the most severe) I was hospitalized. I couldn't subtract 7 from 15, and I couldn't walk for a few days, but I was alive."

Thankfully, no one else was hurt in the crash—but the fallout Brittany experienced went well beyond her injuries. Her path toward medical school, she says, was completely derailed while she dealt with the legalities of what she'd done.

"My medical school application I was working on? GONE. The routine hours spent volunteering? GONE. It doesn't matter what my GPA was, or how well I did on my MCATs...I could be on my way to medical school right now, but instead I am forced to take a few years off. Ten months later, and I am still dealing with legal issues, and they don't seem to be getting resolved any time soon."

Brittany feels fortunate that she only harmed herself. But she's haunted by the knowledge that she could have hurt or killed someone else.

The hardest part, she says, was facing her family. "I let every single person in my life down," she wrote. **"I let my morals and ethics fly away, and I let my dreams go up in flames."**

Her career in medicine now uncertain, Brittany urges others to think about what is at stake before driving under the influence. **"If you think you are okay to get behind a wheel? YOU ARE WRONG."**

You can find the entire story at theodysseyonline.com/dui.



Driving after Drinking

Driving after drinking is deadly. Yet it still continues to happen across the United States. If you drive while impaired, you could get arrested, or worse—be involved in a traffic crash that causes serious injury or death.

Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers

(with BACs of .08 g/dL or higher). In 2017, there were 10,874 people killed in these preventable crashes. In fact, on average over the 10-year period from 2006-

2016, more than 10,000 people died every year in drunk-driving crashes.

In every State, it's illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher, yet one person was killed in a drunk-driving crash every 48 minutes in the United States in 2017.

Men are more likely than women to be driving drunk in fatal crashes. In 2017, 21% of men were drunk in these crashes, compared to 14% for women.

For more information, visit nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving.



220
children
were killed
by drunk
drivers in
2017

Educate Yourself and Others

According to the most recent California DUI statistics, alcohol was involved in 38.6% of all crash fatalities resulting in nearly 1,200 alcohol-involved fatalities in 2013.

That may not seem like many, considering there were more than 160,000 DUI arrests, but once you realize that 1,200 people left behind their parents, siblings, children, spouses, friends, and other loved ones, the number becomes staggering.

Due to these high numbers, in 2011, California joined many other states by allowing the Department of Motor vehicles to immediately suspend the driver's license of anyone suspected of driving under the influence. This law, known as "Admin Per Se", enables law enforcement to confiscate a suspected offender's driver's

license. The license is then sent to the DMV, where it is held until the predetermined suspension time is over or the charge is found to have no merit at a hearing.

IMPLIED CONSENT LAWS

Base drivers must agree to a chemical test of blood or breath whenever there is a reasonable cause to suspect that the driver is operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Refusal to submit to such tests will result in immediate suspension of base driving privileges and the state in which driver's license is held may be notified of the suspension.

DRINKING AND DRIVING

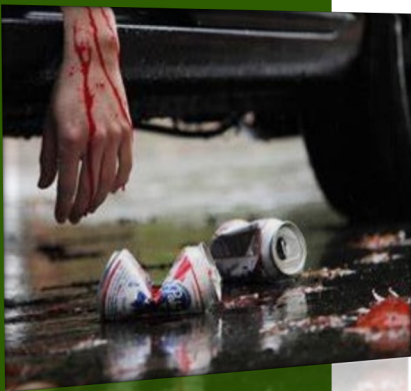
If base drivers under the age of 21 have a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .01% or greater, base driving privileges will be revoked. If base driv-

ers are over the age of 21 and have a (BAC) of .08% or greater, base driving privileges will be revoked. This revocation policy applies to all military installations. Further, the state in which driver's license is held may be notified of the suspension.

CALIFORNIA DUI LAWS

California's **driving under the influence (DUI)** laws mirror that of the base law as far as the **blood alcohol concentration (BAC)** percentages is concerned. California also prohibits operating a commercial vehicle above 0.04% (BAC). The state's DUI laws **include medications**, too. You can't legally drive if you've consumed illegal drugs, excessive amounts of drugs with alcohol in them (such as cough syrup), or prescription and over the counter medication.

Stop a Friend from Drinking and Driving



Preventing a friend, coworker, family member or associate from driving drunk can be a tricky situation. A person under the influence of alcohol is less likely to make reasonable choices. You have to step up to

be their voice of reason, which can be a challenging task. Here are some ways to help prevent someone from drinking and driving:

1. Be a Designated Driver. If you and friends plan to go out for the night, volunteer to be the designated driver. Pick everyone up or get everyone's keys in advance.

2. Plan Ahead. This may seem like a no-brainer, but make a pact with your friends to never let each other drink and drive. If they have to leave their vehicle somewhere, make a promise to drive them back to their car in the morning.

3. Pay for a Ride. Suggest other ways for the impaired person to get home – and offer to pay. Ridesharing apps, like Uber and Lyft, make it easier than ever to request a ride for yourself or a friend. Calling a taxi or using public transportation are great options as well.

4. Stay Persistent. Remember that the person you are trying to help is not thinking clearly. Be casual and non-confrontational, but insist that they find another way home.

5. Let them Sleep Over. Offer your couch for them to sleep it off. If the festivities took place at your home, invite them to sleep over on the couch or in the spare bedroom.

6. Get Help. Conspire with other friends to prevent an intoxicated friend from driving home. Enlist one friend or several. It is harder to say "No" when everyone is suggesting the same thing.

7. Stand Firm. Remind the driver that you care about them, their safety and their wallet. Tell them you would never forgive yourself if something happened to them on the way home. Remind them of the harsh financial costs of getting a DUI and the devastating emotional costs of causing a fatal accident. For more information visit madd.org.

\$1,662.50 for a Beer???

Most of us are well aware of the dangers of drinking and driving. The exponentially increased risk of hurting yourself and others in an accident should be more than enough to deter everyone from Driving Under the Influence (DUI).

Still, just to make the case against drinking and driving even stronger, consider the outrageous cost you will meet if you are convicted of a DUI. Here is a list of things to consider.

1. **You may be taken to jail.** Even first-time offenders can be arrested and bail may be required in varying amounts.

2. **Towing and Impound.** If your vehicle is towed, you'll pay a minimum towing fee and impounding fees add each day.

3. **Attorney.** You may need one and if you go to trial, the cost will increase drastically.

4. **DMV Hearing.** You may need an attorney for the hearing and may have to pay for witnesses to testify.

5. **Court Costs.** Fines and court costs will add up to several thousand dollars. Even if you are a first-time offender with a clean record!

6. **DUI Class.** A required alcohol program could cost \$500 or more.

7. **Ignition Interlock Device.** You may have to pay for installation and a monthly fee.

8. **Insurance.** Your rates could be 3-5 times your previous rate.

While each case is different, estimating on the low end, you'll still pay about \$9,975.00 for your DUI. If you drank a six-pack before getting pulled over, that is \$1,662.50 per beer!! Keep in mind that it doesn't end there. You may also experience loss of rank and forfeiture of pay which will add to the total cost of your DUI conviction. Is it really worth it?



Do You Have a Drinking Problem?

Maybe you're not sure that you have a problem. Maybe you already know you do. Or maybe you are concerned about a friend, fellow Marine, or even a spouse or family member. Where can you get help? What do you do?

A person can become dependent on drugs or alcohol gradually or over a short period of time. Some warning signs include decreased energy, unexplained injuries, irritability, financial difficulties, poor work performance, relationship problems and poor personal hygiene.

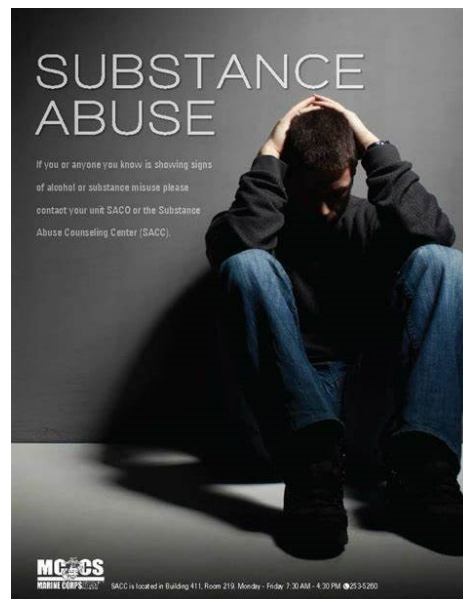
The best way to avoid substance use disorders is to recognize that a problem is forming and address it immediately. Be observant and proactive. Try to adopt healthy alternatives for coping with stress and be assertive

about confronting the person about problematic behavior as soon as you see it.

Understanding and identifying a substance use problem can be the beginning of a better life. Reach out as soon as you can. Talk to your unit SACO, the SACC, your command, your chaplain, or a medical professional. If you're not ready to talk to someone face-to-face, there are several hotlines you can call like the ones listed here.

Military OneSource Crisis Line
800-273-8255 or to chat, text 838255

Substance Abuse National Helpline
800-662-HELP (4357)





Camp Pendleton Base Safety Center

Building 16142 on "A" Street

Commanding General's
Safety Hotline: 760.763.7233

Base Safety Center:
760.763.2366/5328

Our Mission

The Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton Safety Center's mission is to promote the combat readiness of operating forces by providing safety support services. Our goals are to train all Marine Corps Base commands and organizations in occupational safety and health; mishap reduction and Federal Employees' Compensation Act costs through an aggressive safety program, and to exceed the reduction goals set by the Secretary of Defense, and Headquarters Marine Corps Safety Division. Our customers are Base personnel, the operating forces, extended Marine Families, tenant commands, and occasional Reserve components.

SAFETY = FORCE PRESERVATION

Arrive Alive Program

The Arrive Alive Program is one avenue available to Marines when faced with the decision to drive while impaired. The program seeks to reduce the number of active duty DUI arrests and alcohol related accidents.

The program was established by MCCS to provide Marines and Sailors a way to get home when they find themselves in a situation where safety is a concern due to alcohol consumption. It works on a voucher system that



allows the Marine to get home safely even if he or she doesn't have any money available at the time. MCCS pays 100 percent of the cab fare initially, and then the service member reimburses MCCS 50 percent of the fare.

To obtain vouchers or to find out more about the program, contact your unit Family Readiness Officer (FRO).

FIND OUT MORE HERE:

⇒ **Camp Pendleton Base Safety Center**

www.pendleton.marines.mil/Staff-Agencies/Safety-Center/

⇒ **Naval Safety Center**

www.public.navy.mil/NAVSAFECEN

⇒ **NHTSA**

www.nhtsa.gov

⇒ **California Highway Patrol**

www.chp.ca.gov

⇒ **Mothers Against Drunk Driving**

www.madd.org