

Resource document
Winter POV
Alcohol, Dedicated Driver, DUIs

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Narrative:

Typically, the holiday season is synonymous with celebration and this year as Soldiers, Civilians and Family members gather leaders want everyone to be mindful of their safety and celebrate responsibly.

Alcohol consumption slows an individual's reaction time, impairs judgment and causes blurred vision; all of these factors can lead to an accident.

In November 2011, a Soldier was killed in a privately owned vehicle accident when he traveled in the wrong direction on an interstate and collided head-on with another vehicle. Two of the other vehicle's occupants were also killed; alcohol was suspected to be a contributing factor.

Another Soldier was killed in January 2012 when he lost control of his motorcycle, struck a fence and was thrown from his bike. Considered an experienced rider, he had a motorcycle license and had on full personal protective equipment. Alcohol was a contributing factor in the accident.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that in 2010, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes – one every 51 minutes. On average, 25 people were killed in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes per day during December 2010.

Key Messages:

- Plan ahead; be sure to designate a sober driver before the party begins.
- If you will be drinking, don't plan on driving. Even one too many drinks increases the risk of a crash while driving a privately owned vehicle. Remember, buzzed driving is drunk driving.
- Soldiers found guilty of DUI can face a civilian criminal conviction, punishment under the UCMJ resulting in reduction in rank, bar from reenlistment, dishonorable discharge or, even worse, suffer the loss of a life if they decide to drive while impaired.

Talking points:

- Be responsible. If someone you know is drinking, don't let them get behind the wheel. Your actions may save someone's life, and inaction could cost a life.
- Drinking and driving is never a good combination, and it's not worth the risk. Don't let indiscipline override your decision, dig deep and have the moral courage to do

what's right.

- Drinking and driving can quickly turn a holiday celebration into a tragedy.

Tips:

The risks of drinking and driving aren't worth it – if you chose to drink, do not drive.

- Before heading out remember to plan ahead, designate a sober driver, agree to a plan and stick to it.
- If you're impaired and you don't have a designated driver, call a taxi, sober friend or family member or use public transportation. Don't try to drive yourself home under any circumstances.
- Be responsible and watch out for your battle buddy. If someone you know is drinking, don't let them get behind the wheel.

What should you do if you see a drunk driver on the highway?

- Stay as far away from the driver as possible.
- Don't try to pass the vehicle or signal for them to pull over.
- Get the license plate number and try to remember the make, model and color of the vehicle. However, don't compromise your own safety while trying to obtain this information.
- Pull over and call 911. Give them your location and the direction the driver is traveling.

Historical Reference:

<https://safety.army.mil/>

<https://safety.army.mil/povmotorcyclesafety/>

<https://safety.army.mil/multimedia/CAMPAIGNSINITIATIVES/KnowtheSigns/tabid/2369/Default.aspx>

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/alcohol.htm>

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/StopImpairedDriving>

<http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/>

<http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/preHolidaySeason2012>

Statistics:

- NHTSA reports that in 2010, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes – one every 51 minutes. On average, 25 people were killed in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes per day during December 2010.
- Alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes is about four times higher at night than during the day.
- More than 30 percent of drivers involved in fatal crashes on weekends are alcohol impaired.