WHITE LETTER 2-23

From: Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All Marines

Subj: HOLIDAY SAFETY

1. Marines, each year we come together as a Corps to deliberately focus on safety during the critical summer months.

2. The winter and holiday season must be no different. As we prepare for the winter season ahead, we must all apply the same level of deliberate planning and mitigation to prevent unnecessary risk. One loss is too many, and the Marine Corps needs every one of you in the fight. Winter poses unique challenges for activities both on and off duty. Even in Southern California, Yuma, or Beaufort, the season brings unique environmental threats and hazards that increase risk in our daily lives.

3. Many of you will travel throughout the holiday season and are encouraged to do so. Exercise, ski, visit family – all of it is good for our mental, spiritual, and physical health. Take on those activities with the same safety culture we used during the summer months. Understand the risk you are taking in both recreation and “routine” activities, to include travel to and from a destination. Take a moment, slow down, consider the risks, and make wise decisions. Those fun activities or those family members will be there when you arrive, but you must first get there safely to see them.

4. Additionally, we must recognize that the holiday season elicits many strong emotions. Leaders at all levels must engage with your Marines throughout the holidays and ensure they understand the resources available to them. Invest in their plans. If they do not have plans, involve them in yours. The Marine Corps family has plenty of holiday spirit to go around, no Marine should celebrate this season alone.

5. Know that General Smith, Sergeant Major Ruiz, and I are proud to serve alongside you. We look forward to celebrating the new year with every one of you.

Christopher J. Mahoney