



DRUNK DRIVING OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.

Courtesy of www.stopimpaireddriving.org

Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in December 2005, 1,033 people were killed in crashes involving a driver with an illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .08 or above.

That is why local law enforcement organizations will be out in full force looking for and cracking down on impaired drivers this holiday season.

Driving with a BAC of .08 or higher is illegal in every state, but too many are still not getting the message. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, more than 1.3 million people were arrested for driving under the influence during 2005.

Designating a sober driver and not letting friends drive drunk are just two of several simple steps to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving.

Other important tips include:

- Planning ahead: Whenever plans include consuming alcohol, designate a sober driver before going out and give that person the car keys;
- When impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or call a sober friend or family member to arrive home safely;
- Use local community sober rides programs: Cannon Airmen can use Airmen Against Drunk Driving by calling 784-2233;
- Promptly report drunk drivers on the roadways to law enforcement;
- Wearing seat belts or using protective gear on motorcycles is the best defense against an impaired driver;
- And remember, Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Drunk driving is simply not worth the risk. It is deadly serious and against the law. Anyone driving drunk this holiday season, will be arrested. Violators will be spending their money on bail, court, lawyers and towing fees instead of buying holiday presents for loved ones. That's not a great way to end the year.

Don't take the chance. Remember, if you drive over the limit, you will be arrested.

For more information, visit the NHTSA Web site at www.stopimpaireddriving.org.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Good Ole' Mom
and her fruitcake
can't get you out
of a DUI

This holiday, the greatest threat to military personnel is a crash

Courtesy of www.stopimpaireddriving.org

Washington — Downed helicopters, rocket-propelled grenades and roadside ambushes remain serious concerns to U.S. military members in Iraq. What many of them stateside don't realize is that at home, the greatest threat to their lives is much more mundane, but equally or even more dangerous — the pri-

private motor vehicle crash.

In fact, America loses the equivalent of about one squadron every year to mostly preventable traffic crashes, many of which involve alcohol. Last year, the military lost 310 servicemembers and employees to car crashes alone, a rise of 30 percent from the previous year.

These servicemembers died not for their country, in spite of its best efforts to protect them.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, automobile crashes are the leading cause of death nationwide for all people ages 18-34 years old. "Preventing automobile crashes is a top priority for President Bush and Transportation Secretary Mineta," said National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator Dr. Jeffrey W. Runge, "The key to our success lies with convincing young people to buckle up and to not drive impaired."

As part of the Bush Administration's challenge to reduce work related traffic crashes and injuries, the Pentagon began reviewing traffic statistics for each service.

Statistics showed that 284 servicemembers died in private motor vehicle crashes in 2003. Though 82 of those deaths came from crashes involving motorcycles, many deaths were linked simply to impaired driving and the failure to wear safety belts. From 2002 to 2003, deaths from private car crashes rose for the Army, fell for the Marines and remained stable for the Navy and Air Force.

Former defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld charged the Defense Safety Oversight Council (DSOC) to develop an information system that would provide real-time reporting of mishaps, as well as analysis and strategies for prevention.

DSOC intends to reduce non-combat casualties to 12.5 deaths and 70 injuries per 100,000 personnel per year — preventing 155 traffic deaths per year.

Military personnel are at a high risk for impaired driving

Though all types of people drink and drive, researchers say many common drunk drivers are younger men, aged 18 to 29, who often take risks and are a "sensation seeker" — much like a common servicemember.

Moreover, the military employs large numbers of men aged 18 to 34, which is the age group most likely to be involved in alcohol-related crashes.

While servicemembers might believe they are invincible behind the wheel, many impaired driving fatalities last year involved drivers who had merely drank the legal limit. In fact, more than 15,000 Americans died in crashes last year in which the most impaired driver "blew" a .08 BAC (blood alcohol content) — an intoxication level many servicemembers might underestimate.

Yet, the military has made inroads since the 1980s, when as many as 700 Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and civilian personnel died every year in private automobile crashes. The Marines, for example, now enforce standardized safety belt regulations and teach driver-improvement classes to new recruits, while the Army seeks to identify Soldiers who are most inclined to drink and drive, reaching out to them with educational materials and briefings.

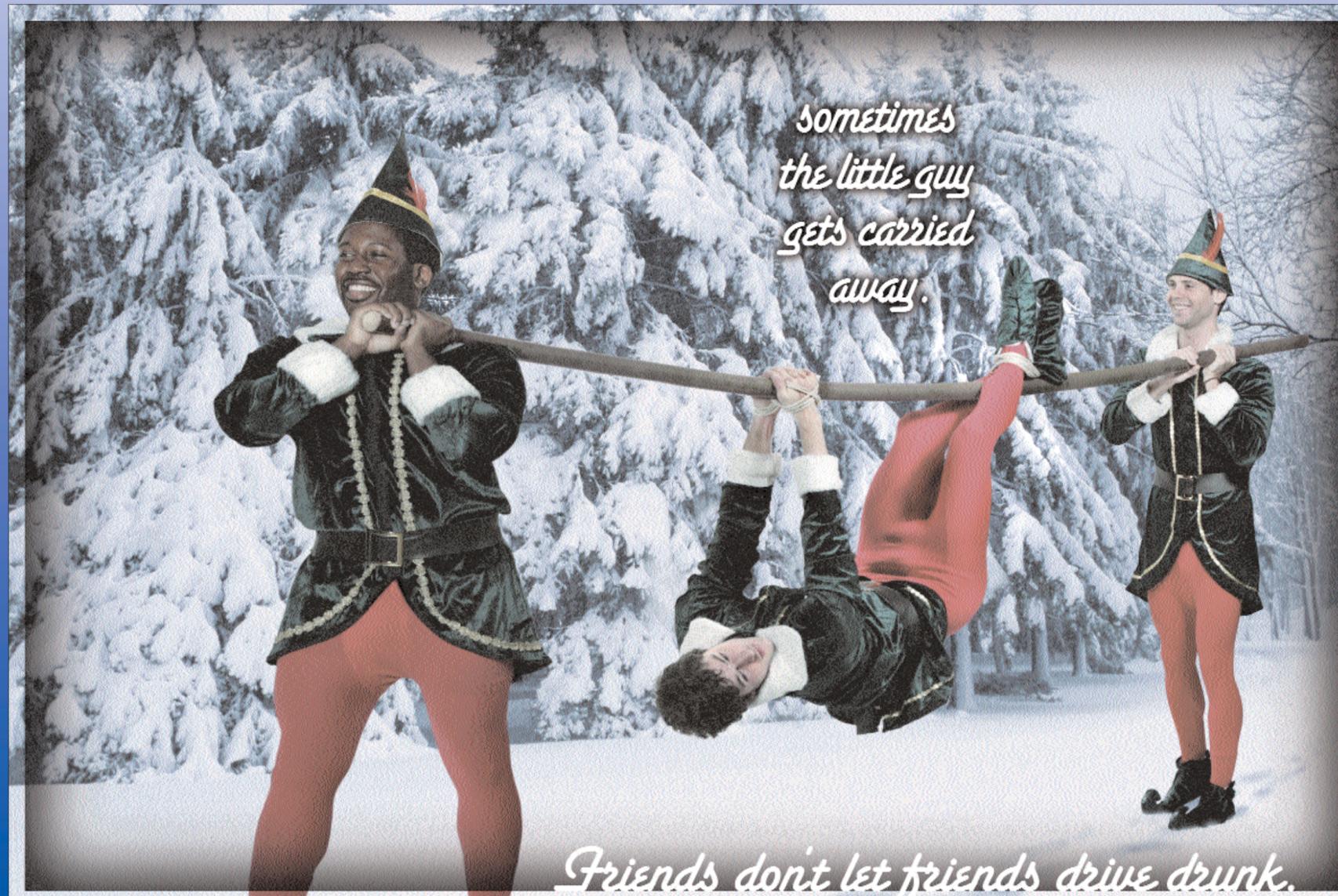
In addition to year-round programs, the NHTSA encourages bases to be particularly involved during the year-end holiday season, when many impaired driving deaths occur. This year, all members of the military family are being called upon to take personal responsibility for their safety and that of others on the road. Designate a sober driver ahead of time, call a taxicab or arrange to be picked up by a friend.

For more information about impaired driving, visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org and click on the section for Military, or visit:

Armed Service's Impaired Driving Education Plan Web site: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/alcohol/DesignatedDriver/armed1.html.

Air Force Ground Safety Division Web site: www.afsafety.af.mil/AFSC/RDBMS/Ground/ground.html.

Department of Defense Traffic Safety Policy Web site: www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/i60554_072099/i60554p.pdf.



*Sometimes
the little guy
gets carried
away.*

Friends don't let friends drive drunk.

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