Volunteer Driver Program
Overview

Situation

• Marines Work and play hard. Playing hard sometimes includes drinking alcohol.
• Marines use ORM. Whether on the battlefield or on liberty every Marine is charged to make plans that mitigate risk to an acceptable level.
• Plans change and Marines should be equipped to succeed as they do.

Mission

Provide Marines every the opportunity to raise a glass with friends and return home safely.
HMLA-267 utilizes an overlapping three pronged approach to ensure Marines do not drive drunk.

1. Immediate chain of command recall cards
2. Arrive Alive Card Program
3. Volunteer Driver Program

Volunteer Driver Program (VDP) is just another way to get Marines home safely.

Volunteering provides our Marines an opportunity to serve one another during a time of need.

Rewarding volunteer drivers cultivates an atmosphere of DUI prevention.
Prior to liberty, the VDP Coordinator sends an email inviting Marines to volunteer.

During liberty briefs, the number of volunteer drivers is noted to all hands as one of the ways to get home without driving drunk.

During post liberty periods, the number of volunteers used since program inception is given to positively reinforce sound decision making as well as taking care of one another.
Specifics

- **Volunteers**
  - Eligible to volunteer as drivers for 24-hour periods.
  - Drivers have valid driver’s license, proper vehicle registration and insurance, and a safe vehicle.
  - Volunteers refrain from drinking and are appropriately rested during period of volunteer service.
  - Upon notice from duty office, volunteers contact the impaired Marine and arrange transportation.

- **Impaired Marines**
  - Impaired Marines contact the duty office to request a volunteer driver.
  - Impaired Marines receive a call from volunteer driver to arrange transportation.
Reward System

- **Commendatory Recognition**
  - Volunteers accrue hours that can be redeemed for an extended liberty period or an award. Each volunteer day counts as 24 hours of volunteer service.

- **Incentives**
  - 15 days of service = 72-hour liberty period.
  - 20 days of service = Meritorious Mast.
  - 60 days of service = Certificate of Commendation.
Conclusion

- **It Works!**
  - Since the program’s inception in 2013, over 40 Marines have taken advantage of the process and asked for help with a ride when needed. That’s potentially avoiding almost 2 DUIs per month.

- **Reaping the Benefits**
  - 28 Marines have earned awards via volunteering to be drivers.
    - 13 Certificates of Commendation.
    - 12 Meritorious Masts.
    - Three 72-hour liberty periods.