



**Three National Safety Awards for Twentynine Palms**  
*Council Recognizes Combat Center for Driver Safety Efforts*

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, Calif. recently received three awards from the National Safety Council for driver safety. One award went to an instructor and two went to the Combat Center Safety Division.

The division won the 2014 Excellence in Highway Safety and the 2013 Defensive Driving Course Best Performance Award for "Alive at 25." The third award went to Angel Rios for Instructor of the Year Award.

Major General Juan G. Ayala, USMC, Commander of the Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM), stated, "The winners should be congratulated for their achievements – in particular, for their efforts to ensure our young Marines have all the information they need to stay safe behind the wheel."

Rios has been teaching the "Alive at 25" course for seven years and has received this award four times. It is taught to active duty and reserve Marines between the ages of 18 and 25, when they reach the fleet on the hazards of driving. The course goes through the seven main driving hazards: speeding, fatigue, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, seat-belts, driving with too many people in the vehicle, and distractions such as eating, drinking a beverage, cell-phones, texting and other activities.

"Since 2008, we have steadily improved on everything we do here," says David Horn, director for the center. More than 26,000 Marines have received driver training since 2008.

For more information about the awards and the winners' achievements, please contact the Public Affairs Officer, Marine Corps Installations Command, Rex Runyon ([rex.runyon@usmc.mil](mailto:rex.runyon@usmc.mil)).

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