



News

Communications Unit

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RED CARD TO DRINK DRIVING

The Army has teamed up with road safety campaigners in North Yorkshire to support the Summer Drink Drive campaign. 95 Alive the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership is working with North Yorkshire County Council Road Safety Officers, Richmondshire CDRP and 400 Troop Royal Logistic Corps at the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick to help get the message across to the huge number of soldiers and their families across the Garrison.

As World Cup Fever sweeps Britain the aim is to use the interest created to encourage people not to drink and drive.

There are over 8,500 soldiers at Catterick Garrison, plus families and campaigners are keen to make sure people enjoy the world cup but stay safe. So the warning is to make sure if they are going out drinking they take DES with them. Having a DESignated driver or using a taxi, a bus, or walking can mean the difference between a good night out or the horrendous alternatives that drinking and driving can bring.

In the past five years in York and North Yorkshire 287 people have been killed or seriously injured because of drink driving. The least that will happen if drivers are caught over the limit will be a minimum 12 month ban and up to a £5,000 fine.

That could lead to the loss of jobs, the break up of relationships and all that that entails. Worse they could kill or seriously injure themselves or someone else.

A conviction of causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs carries a sentence of up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine and a minimum two year driving ban.

North Yorkshire County Councillor John Fort, Executive Member for Road Safety said: "Getting the army on board in the campaign is a real boost. This really is a message we want to spread across the whole County. Officers and staff at Catterick Garrison have always been very supportive of the road safety campaigns. We want people to enjoy the World Cup but we have to emphasise the dangers of drinking and driving. The problem is alcohol can make people over confident, so they forget all the warnings and believe they'll be alright to drive, but they won't be and it can lead to catastrophic consequences for themselves and other people.

Neil Strickland, Road Safety and Travel Awareness Officer for Richmond said: "Teaming up with the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick is a huge help in getting our message out. The World Cup has created an enormous amount of interest, but as the campaign says no one likes penalties and if people are going out drinking we really do call on them to make sure they have a DESignated driver, or arrangements have been made so they can get home safely.

"Enjoying the world Cup is one thing, risking your licence, your job or your life is another, it just is not worth it."



Cpl Cliff Ealand of the Royal Logistic Corps added: "There's a massive amount of interest in the World Cup on the Garrison as you would imagine, and we're determined to make sure no one thinks it's an excuse for drinking and driving. We have always had a tough approach to drinking and driving, it simply is not tolerated, and we're keen to back the campaign and encourage people to make sure if they are drinking, they're not driving.

"The Army is like one big family and the really crucial thing is to emphasise to everyone that the dangers are too great, it's not just a question of someone losing their licence, it could mean their job, their family, their life. The penalties are high and we will do all we can to ensure people stay safe, not only during the World Cup but after."

Insp Dave Brown, Head of Roads Policing for North Yorkshire Police warned: "We will continue to 'head home' the message – Enjoy yourselves but stay safe and legal. We will 'tackle' all offences relating to drink and drug driving. This is not a game – it's peoples lives and you know the score !

"Not only is drink driving illegal it is reckless, dangerous and can ruin people's lives. If you are going to the pub to watch England and are driving, don't drink it's as simple as that."

Photograph – Members of 400 Troop RLC show drink driving the red card with Road Safety and Travel Awareness Officer Neil Strickland and TC Wright of North Yorkshire Police.

For further information contact Janet Gleeson, Communications Coordinator for 95 Alive on 01609 798304.