

Military Members Learn How It Feels To Drive Drunk

June 25, 2007 08:22 PM EDT By Patrice Clark

At first glance, it looks like a cool race car game. But the interactive drunk driving simulator is serious business.

Chris Geysbeek and his group "Save a Life" are using the million dollar machine to teach some Makin Island sailors the dangers of driving drunk.

"What we do is take a sober person, and show them all the things that would happen with their brain, with different blood alcohol levels, their reaction times, and how that delay affects your mind."

Sailor Robert Regalado struggled to stay on the road.

"I thought it was going to be easy, before, but it was really hard," Regalado said.

The 26-year-old says he does drink socially. But after seeing and feeling what booze can do to the mind, Regalado says he will not drink and drive.

"It not the smart thing to do, and in the military there's a lot of DUIs and accidents that involve alcohol."

Through this Save a Life program, organizers are hoping more people start opening their eyes and using their heads before jumping behind the wheel when they're intoxicated.

"You're talking about 20,000 people a year that are killed from drunk driving. It's extremely dangerous. You know, alcohol, they say, is a empowerment drug," Geysbeek said.

If the drunk driving simulator doesn't get the message across, the group has one more tool. An empty casket, parked right beside the simulator, shows participants where they can end up if they drink and drive.

"It does not matter what age group or what demographic, everyone is at risk. Hopefully we teach everyone not to drink and drive."