



Commanding Officer's Policy on Substance Abuse



Substance misuse and/or abuse creates a downward spiral in which our ability to maintain personal and family readiness is degraded. Alcohol abuse and the distribution, possession, or use of illegal drugs or improper use of prescription medication destroys our team and detracts from our number one priority, Warfighting.

Drugs and Prescription Medication

- Marines and Sailors who are using drugs illegally are directly violating regulations.
- As a deterrent, we will actively screen all personnel for signs of substance use. In accordance with MCO 5300.17, substance abuse will not be tolerated, and confirmed illegal drug use or misuse of prescription medication will result in mandatory administrative separation processing.
- Marine Corps policies and directives governing substance abuse are not limited to commonly-identified illegal drugs. Rather, any drug or substance not used for its intended purpose or used in excess can be classified as substance abuse. Additionally, any substance that is ingested with the explicit purpose of getting high or "going on a trip" is categorized as substance abuse. This may include, but is not limited to, aerosols, cold medication and over-the-counter substances used to specifically alter the normal state of mind.
- Prescription drugs used or possessed outside of the prescribed period of time, or given to an unauthorized individual is illegal.
- Illegal drug distribution is a criminal activity. We must actively seek to find and prosecute those who distribute within the ranks.
- Association with drug users is contrary to our Corps values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

Alcohol

- Alcohol is an addictive drug, and when not managed properly, it can lead to abuse.
- When the use of alcohol results in excessive/daily consumption, missed work and reduction in performance or is in your system during working hours, you are degrading our readiness.
- As a deterrent, we will regularly undergo breathalyzer testing in an effort to identify those who are under the influence while on duty.
- Leadership involvement starts with being aware of the signs of alcohol misuse/abuse in order to intervene and provide Marines and Sailors assistance BEFORE it impacts our Warfighting mission.
- Those who come forward and identify themselves as having a possible issue will be provided support through the SACO to receive appropriate care.
- Drinking does not excuse poor behavior or choices. Marines and Sailors will be held accountable for their actions.

Leaders must be vigilant and proactive in prevention of abuse and reporting of illegal use.

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