

**3d Battalion, 3d Marines**  
**Commanding Officer's Policy on Substance Abuse**

In my commander's intent I emphasize the imperative to take care of our people. I state that, "**We take care of our people**: We always accomplish the mission with and through our people. Our people includes our Marines, Sailors, Civilian Employees, and their families." I emphasize sharpening our strengths and improving upon our weaknesses. Substance abuse can be a challenge for Marines and Sailors of any rank. It creates physical, emotional and mental weaknesses and makes our people more susceptible to poor judgment and poor life choices. As a part of taking care of our people we must curb the instances of substance abuse in **Trinity**.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure we maintain our operational readiness through the prevention, education and, when required, the treatment of Marines or Sailors dealing with substance abuse. Substance abuse degrades the ability of our Marines and Sailors to effectively perform their duties, places lives at risk, undermines good order and discipline, and de-stabilizes the lives of our Marines, Sailors, and their families.

**Reference:** Marine Corps Order 5300.17 Marine Corps Substance Abuse Program

**Definitions:**

- Abuse is defined as misuse or wrongful use of a substance; whether or not used therapeutically, legally, or prescribed by a physician.
- Alcohol abuse is defined as the use of alcohol to an extent that it has an adverse effect on performance, conduct, discipline, or mission effectiveness, and/or the user's health, behavior, family, community, or the Marine Corps, or leads to unacceptable behavior as evidenced by one or more acts of alcohol-related misconduct.
- Drug abuse is defined as wrongful use of a controlled substance, prescription medication, over-the-counter medication, or intoxicating substance to an extent that it has an adverse effect on performance, conduct, discipline, or mission effectiveness, and/or the user's health, behavior, family, community, or the Marine Corps, or leads to unacceptable behavior as evidenced by one or more acts of drug-related misconduct. It also includes the intentional inhalation of fumes or gasses of intoxicating substances with the intent of achieving an intoxicating effect on the user's mental or physical state, and steroid usage other than that specifically prescribed by a competent authority.

Marine Corps Order 5300.17 prohibits alcohol abuse and the manufacture, distribution, trafficking, possession, and use/wrongful use of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, controlled substance analogues and designer drugs. This order further prohibits the use of natural substances, chemicals, propellants, prescribed drugs, over-the-counter drugs, and pharmaceutical compounds with the intent to introduce intoxication, excitement or stupefaction of one's central nervous system or that of another. These prohibited acts are not compatible with our warfighting ethos and will not be tolerated in **Trinity**.

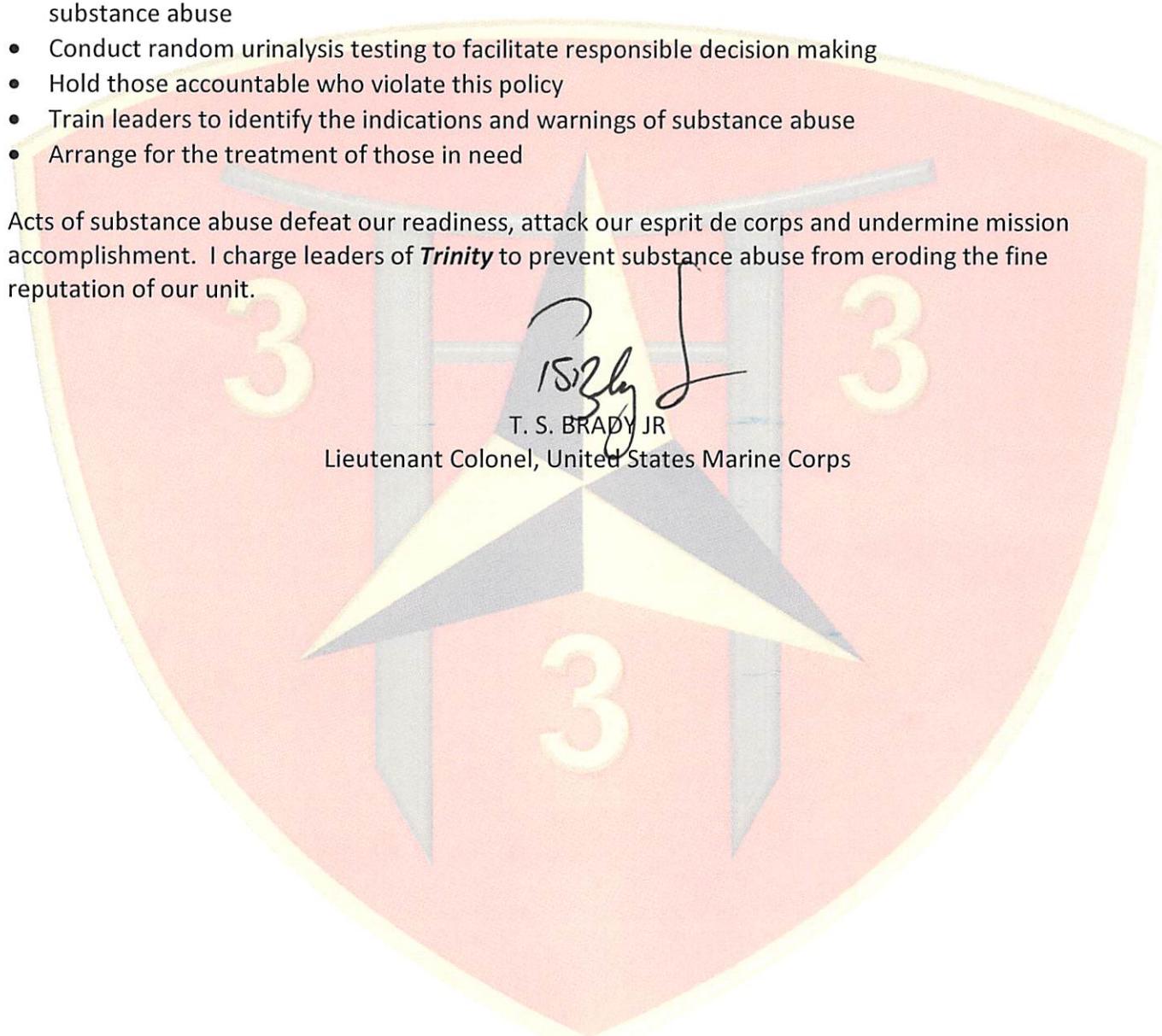
**Identification and Recovery:** As leaders, we must actively look for signs of abuse and chemical dependence in our Marines and Sailors. While we often see the indications of substance abuse as a result of a Marine or Sailor's poor choices, many times this is not the case. Members of this team may be privately suffering strong addictions that can remain undetected for years. We will work to identify

members of this team who have substance abuse challenges and we will help them find the path of recovery. This will require engaged leadership and the moral courage to “call someone out” for an abuse related activity or behavior that may fall short of a UCMJ violation.

Pursuant to this policy we will:

- Educate and reinforce to our Marines and Sailors the negative effects and consequences of substance abuse
- Conduct random urinalysis testing to facilitate responsible decision making
- Hold those accountable who violate this policy
- Train leaders to identify the indications and warnings of substance abuse
- Arrange for the treatment of those in need

Acts of substance abuse defeat our readiness, attack our esprit de corps and undermine mission accomplishment. I charge leaders of **Trinity** to prevent substance abuse from eroding the fine reputation of our unit.



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