



**COMBAT ASSAULT BATTALION
COMMANDING OFFICER'S
STATEMENT ON
ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**



While stationed on Okinawa, some Marines have fallen prey to alcohol and illegal substances; do not fall into this trap. I want each Marine and Sailor to understand that alcohol and substance abuse are detrimental to the performance and readiness of our battalion and will not be tolerated. Alcohol and substance abuse reduces the daily effectiveness of our unit and adversely impacts the command, individuals, and their families. Everyone is responsible to intervene immediately and act decisively once a Marine or Sailor violates this mandate. This includes alcohol and substance abuse or the misuse of any legal or illegal drug such as marijuana, spice, bath salts, alcohol and prescription medication. This also includes any legal substance that is taken for the sole purpose of altering the state of mind. I firmly believe that alcohol abuse and any illegal substance use is unnecessary and preventable.

The consumption of alcohol is not essential to the development of our unit pride and you do not need to depend on it to have a "good time". Camaraderie should be developed through other means; therefore, this command will take the appropriate steps to deglamorize the use and abuse of alcohol. Through creative leadership we will discourage activities that could be construed as reinforcing the concept that alcohol abuse is acceptable.

The use of illegal or controlled substances will not be tolerated. Our ethos has taught us better and there is no gray area when it comes to this debilitating act. Every member of this command understands there is a "zero tolerance" policy when it comes to substance abuse, so keep your honor clean and stay clear of this career-ending activity.

The most effective and long-term deterrence program is one that promotes an attitude of overall responsibility on the part of the individual Marine or Sailor. This requires the resolute commitment of all leaders to combat the debilitating threat posed by substance abuse. I believe this mindset is essential to the success of our battalion and the health of our Marines and Sailors. We must ensure that every member of Combat Assault Battalion is committed to eradicating alcohol and substance abuse from our organization. I will not accept or excuse alcohol and substance abuse as a mitigating factor for misconduct. If you suspect someone, or yourself, of having a substance or alcohol abuse problem, take action. Confront the individual or seek assistance from the Substance Abuse Control Officer or through the Chaplain. Through preemptive vigilance we can keep substance abuse from destroying our individual Marines and Sailors and their families.

Semper Fidelis,

C. T. JACKSON

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer