



## 12TH MARINE REGIMENT 3D MARINE DIVISION

### Commanding Officer's Substance Abuse Policy Statement



The Marines and Sailors of 12th Marine Regiment are part of a proud legacy. Iwo Jima, Vietnam, and today our Regiment has responded to the nation's call at a moment's notice and successfully faced the adversity of combat, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief. For our regiment to remain successful within the range of military options we must remain ready.

Ultimately, the responsibility of preparedness rests with the individual Marine and Sailor both personally and for their family. Substance abuse is damaging to not only the individual but the unit and is detrimental to our mission and undermines our core values. Deterring substance abuse is crucial to preserving the readiness of our personnel and the integrity of our equipment.

Per Marine Corps Order 5300.17 "Alcohol abuse and the distribution, possession, use, trafficking or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia is contrary to the effective performance of Marines and to the Marine Corps mission, and will not be tolerated." This policy is extended to include not only illegal drug use but also the misuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, and the misuse of controlled substances for the purpose of getting high. Driving or knowingly being a passenger to someone under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be tolerated.

All substance abuse related incidents will be investigated and reported to the Commanding Officer. Substantiated cases of substance abuse will be referred to the Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO) for screening and referral to the Substance Abuse Control Center for treatment and rehabilitation if necessary. Cases of illegal drug use or failure to participate in treatment services will be grounds for administrative separation. Personnel who have not had an incident but feel they may have a substance abuse problem are encouraged to seek help through the SACO without worry of reprisal.

This policy letter applies to all personnel assigned or attached to 12th Marine Regiment and subordinate units regardless of geographic location. Any violation of this policy or the orders from which it is derived are punishable under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice and could result in administrative separation.

I expect everyone to be responsible and accountable for their conduct and to look out for their fellow Marines, Sailors, civilians, and families. We must be able to identify signs or symptoms within our command and culture that can lead to substance abuse. Prevention is everyone's responsibility. Leaders will brief their Marines on the dangers of substance abuse, avoidance techniques, encourage alcohol free recreational activities, and emphasize that personnel who do choose to partake in alcohol must do so responsibly.

Semper Fidelis and Be Ready to Fight and Win Tonight!

  
Michael Roach  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps