

**COMMANDING OFFICER
1st Battalion, 3d Marines**

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY
STATEMENT**



Substance abuse is counter to good order and the fostering of a cohesive fighting force. Frankly, substance abuse puts Marines and Sailors at risk to themselves, others, their relationships, their families, and their unit.

All Marines and Sailors are at some-level of risk of becoming dependent upon prescription medication and alcohol or being exposed to illegal drugs. Marines and Sailors of this battalion are highly encouraged to seek help early if they find themselves struggling with alcohol or have become addicted to their prescribed medication. Marines and Sailors may self-refer to the battalion substance abuse control officer or substance abuse counseling center without recourse or fear of embarrassment or ostracism. Those who seek help should be commended for their action.

Our Commandant has made it clear that there is "no place for those who risk the lives of others by operating a motor vehicle while impaired." The battalion provides an accessible "Arrive Alive" fund and will conduct other safety planning with the goal of preventing all instances of driving under the influence. Additionally, the Marine Corps Separations Manual requires mandatory processing for administrative separation for Marines with two or more alcohol related incidents who fail to comply with the requirements of an alcohol treatment program.

The Marine Corps policy on drug abuse is zero tolerance. Marines proven to have wrongfully utilized illegal, synthetic, and prescription drugs must be processed for administrative separation. The years when drug abuse was most prevalent in our Corps marked a period of time in which we were the least combat effective.

All Marines and Sailors are charged to look after each other with regard to the safe consumption of alcohol and to prevent illegal drug use. The command's substance abuse control officer is Staff Sergeant Clements and can be reached at (808)257-2296 or timothy.clements@usmc.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. G. Gourgoumis".

A. G. GOURGOU MIS
LTCOL, U.S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING OFFICER