



Substance Abuse

The Marine Corps serves as the United States' 911 force, ready to fight our nation's battles on a moment's notice. In order to execute our squadron's mission when the call comes, every Marine and Sailor must be mentally and physically ready to go. Any Marine who is dependent on alcohol or drugs and is not receiving treatment becomes a liability to the squadron and mission.

As your Commanding Officer, it is my duty to take legal action against any Marine or Sailor involved with substance abuse or driving while intoxicated. Historically, such abuse has contributed to Marines committing egregious violations of the UCMJ such as hazing, sexual assault, or larceny. If you are underage and choose to drink or provide alcohol to underage Marines, be prepared to be held accountable for your actions. The use of or experimentation with banned substances, illegal drugs or misuse of prescription medication will not be tolerated. As Marines, we are held to a higher standard. As your Commanding Officer, it is my responsibility to maintain that standard.

It is also my responsibility to help any Marine who seeks assistance for their alcohol or drug dependency. The road to recovery begins by speaking to our squadron Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO). Any Marine or Sailor who seeks assistance for their drug or alcohol dependency can do so with the utmost confidentiality and without fear of punishment or reprisal from the chain of command. If you know of a fellow Marine or Sailor with dependency issues, refer them to the SACO and assist them in getting the help they need.

Our Squadron will educate itself by conducting supervisor level training annually with the Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator and every Marine will participate in the new Unit Marine Awareness and Prevention Integrated Training (UMAPIT) annually. We will do this in order to build upon universal behavioral health training and our own life experiences, strengthening each other by raising awareness, reinforcing our responsibility to intervene, and increasing acceptance to get help.

MACS-4 will be ready when called upon to execute our mission. To do this, I need every Marine ready to go, drug free and responsible in their drinking.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. D. Hicks".

Michael D. Hicks

Commanding Officer

Marine Air Control Squadron 4