



Marine Unmanned Aircraft Squadron 3
(VMU-3)

Policy on Substance Abuse

LtCol B. H. "Fonzie" Schreiner
18 June 2014



The Marine Corps' policy on illegal drug use is **ZERO TOLERANCE**, and **every Phantom in VMU-3 has made a verbal and written commitment to our Country and our Corps not to use illegal drugs.** Use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with military service and has **no place in military aviation or our Corps.** **Any personnel who test positive for illegal drug use will be processed for separation immediately.** **There is no mitigation or leniency on this policy.**

Substance abuse is defined in MCO 5300.17 Marine Corps Substance Abuse Program and it includes: **"The wrongful use, possession, manufacture, distribution, or introduction onto a military installation, vessel, vehicle, or aircraft used by or under the control of the armed forces by any person subject to this Order, of natural substances (e.g. fungi), chemicals (e.g. chemicals wrongfully used as inhalants), propellants, or prescribed or over-the-counter drugs or pharmaceutical compounds with the intent to induce intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of their own central nervous system, or that of another, is prohibited"**.

Per the definition above, substance abuse is **not isolated to illegal drugs. Alcohol, prescription medications, and over-the-counter drugs can be just as dangerous when used or abused in ways not consistent with their intended purpose.** Drug and alcohol abuse – legal or illegal – reduces a person's capacity to perform and places them, as well as others at risk. Whether you are flying, fixing an aircraft, handling weapons, operating heavy equipment or vehicles, **we are in a dangerous and unforgiving profession.** Every member of this squadron is critical to the success of our mission. We can replace broken equipment but our Phantoms are irreplaceable.

"VMU-3 needs all of you operating safely at your full potential every day."

My primary concern with substance abuse is the high risk of injury or death to the individual abusing or the risk of injury or death to other Phantoms, Marines, Sailors, Family members, Friends, or Civilians. **Treatment is a bigger concern than disciplinary action alone.** Anyone classified as having a drug or alcohol incident will be referred to the Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO). After being screened, counseled, medically evaluated and diagnosed, they will be assigned to a treatment facility. Success or failure of that treatment program is entirely up to the individual and what they want to do with their life. **We are all adults and we all understand what the ramifications of substance abuse can have on a life, not to mention an individuals' career during these times.** Depending on the substance and the situation, Marines and Sailors may have mandatory processing for separation from service. If the situation permits and treatment is successful, personnel will return to their work center without prejudice.

**BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR DECISIONS AND ACTIONS. YOU ARE YOUR BROTHER'S KEEPER,
HELP THEM MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS BY STOPPING THEM FROM MAKING THE WRONG ONES.**

The Marines, Sailors, and family members of VMU-3 are our most precious assets and we will protect them through our courage, discipline, and high standards. We are an organization of performance and pride and we will not tolerate things that jeopardize our mission, our ranks, the fair treatment of others, or the standards of our services. **"Phantoms are: Maximum Impact - No Drama...On Time – On Target"**

Semper Fidelis,

B. H. "Fonzie" SCHREINER
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, VMU-3 PHANTOMS