



VMM-265 Command Substance Abuse Policy



Marines and Sailors of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 265, substance abuse, to include the use of illegal drugs and the misuse of alcohol, will not be tolerated in this squadron. As Dragons we have built a reputation, based upon the core values of honor, courage, and commitment, that has seen VMM-265 succeed here in Okinawa, Japan. Our goal as a VMM is to provide timely and reliable support to Marine ground units while upholding the highest possible standards of safety.

It is for this reason that substance abuse has no place in the squadron. Drug and alcohol abuse not only impedes the squadron's ability to conduct operations safely, but jeopardizes the fabric of unit cohesion by causing friction in personal and professional relationships.

To mitigate the effects and dangers posed by illegal drug use, VMM-265 will continue to maintain a proactive urinalysis program. The squadron will conduct all hands and random urinalyses as required in order to identify those individuals who have placed their own recreation above the safety of their fellow Marines by using illegal drugs. Any Marine who is confirmed to have tested positive for illegal substances will at a minimum be recommended for separation in addition to other legal actions that may be taken.

A more common problem in the squadron and the Marine Corps as a whole, is the misuse of alcoholic beverages. My policy on alcohol abuse is simple: if you are involved in an incident where alcohol is found to be a contributing factor, you will be referred to the Substance Abuse Control Officer for evaluation, and any further action will be at my discretion. If treatment is refused, the squadron will provide the necessary support to ensure the affected Marine or Sailor gets the help they need. However, the continued abuse of alcohol will not be tolerated. Additionally, it is incumbent upon the small unit leadership to remain aware of the warning signs that a Marine or Sailor may have a substance abuse problem and intervene before the behavior results in an incident.

Dragons, if you drink alcohol, you will be of age, and you will do it in a responsible manner. This means that when you go out, have a plan to get home safely. You not only take responsibility for your own drinking but also your fellow Marines' drinking by policing one another. Most importantly, this means you never drink and drive. There are too many lives at risk and too many resources to get you home safely, such as taxi cabs and the Arrive Alive Program, to ever operate a vehicle if you are intoxicated. As Marines, we are compelled to uphold a higher standard.

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