



**Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1  
Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on  
Substance Abuse**



Substance abuse is the overindulgence in or dependence on an addictive or debilitating substance, especially alcohol or drugs, whether they are over-the-counter medications, prescriptions, or illegal drugs.

Substance abuse has a decided impact on individual performance. Marines who are psychologically and physiologically drug dependent or under the influence of drugs are not reliable. They have difficulty completing physical tasks requiring stamina and endurance, as well as those requiring precision and judgment. Social behavior also suffers from drug abuse. Substance abuse contributes to disciplinary problems, accidents, increased family conflicts, loss of friendship, and/or financial difficulties. It degrades individual self-discipline, motivation and performance.

Illegal drugs are strictly forbidden. Illegal drug use can be extremely detrimental, adversely impacting readiness, security, health, welfare, safety, and good order and discipline of the command, its personnel, and equipment.

Substance abuse and illegal drug use are violations of the law, are contradictory to Marine Corps values, and are breaches of the special trust and confidence extended to Marines and Sailors. Members of MWHS-1 that engage in substance abuse, or otherwise associate with illegal drugs, will be held accountable for their actions. Substance abuse allegations in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice will be reported to law enforcement. In appropriate cases, I will initiate judicial or adverse administrative action.

For those with problems of substance abuse, know that alcoholism and drug addiction are progressive diseases. Alcohol and drug abuse are treatable and there are more options available today than ever before. Although some people with alcohol or drug problems are able to stop using alcohol or drugs for a while, most need professional help to recover. If you are concerned that you or someone you know may have a drug or alcohol problem, obtain help by talking with your medical provider, religious adviser, professional addiction counselor, or command Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO).

Semper Fidelis,

**JOSEPH E. RUPP**  
**Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps**  
**Commanding Officer**  
**Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1**