



# **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

## **Commanding General's Policy Statement**



Alcohol abuse and the distribution, possession, use, trafficking or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia is contrary to the effective performance of 1st MAW Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines, and to the mission of the Wing. These activities will not be tolerated. Alcohol and drug offenses will be dealt with swiftly and effectively, and can potentially result in separation from service. 1st MAW prevention education and training is designed to enhance mission readiness and provide requisite knowledge of the effects of alcohol and drug abuse, and to ultimately assist all in making responsible decisions. We must always be mindful of the environments in which we live and operate, and how irresponsible decisions can have immediate strategic implications – Protect What You've Earned.

### **How does this impact your ability to fight?**

The very nature of our aviation mission at 1st MAW requires highly skilled and focused warriors working with mechanically and technologically complex machines and systems to deliver warfighting capability to III MEF and the Joint Force. Each member of the Wing provides a valuable contribution to the accomplishment of the mission. Although sometimes difficult to imagine, the abuse of drugs and alcohol can change everything from your body to your bank account, including effects like altered brain chemistry, health complications, infections, legal issues, financial problems, accidental injuries, and even death. Working in an impaired state will lead to errors and mistakes, and puts lives at risk, not to mention the potential for damage to equipment and aircraft. Drug and alcohol abuse are wholly incompatible with and diametrically opposed to, the performance necessary and expected of 1st MAW Marines and Sailors in the execution of our missions across the range of military operations, and in our ability to fight and win.

### **What do I want you to do?**

1. Know that you have a responsibility to combat drug and alcohol abuse; know the warning signs, step in to prevent abuse, misuse, or a bad situation from developing, and help fellow Marines and Sailors who may have a problem to get assistance.
2. Receive Substance Abuse prevention awareness education and training at least annually.
3. If you drink, DRINK RESPONSIBLY. Understand consumption of alcohol is not essential or equal to Marine Corps pride, and that alcohol abuse constitutes unacceptable behavior.
4. Create an environment where Marines and Sailors know that it's okay not to drink.
5. Understand that possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages while under the age of 21 on any Marine Corps installation located in the United States or its territories is prohibited (with one exception provided in the references). The minimum drinking age for overseas locations will be based on the host nation's drinking age, international treaties and agreements, and on the base order as determined by the local Installation Commander. Selling or providing alcohol to anyone under the minimum drinking age is prohibited.

**References:** MCO 5300.17, Marine Corps Substance Abuse Program; MCO 1700.22G, Alcoholic Beverage Control in the Marine Corps

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