



## MARINE WING COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON 18 SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY



*"Alcohol abuse and the use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia is contrary to the effective performance of Marines and to the Marine Corps mission. Alcohol and drug offenses will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with swiftly and effectively." – MCO 5300.17A*

Every MWCS-18 Marine is critical to our unit's mission, and must not misuse prescription drugs, use illegal drugs, or drink alcohol in excess. Both drug and alcohol abuse are a severe detriment to combat readiness, undermine health, safety, discipline, and are incompatible with the high standards required to "Fight Now."

Alcohol Use. Alcohol shall be consumed responsibly only by Marines of legal drinking age. Twenty-one years old in the United States or twenty years old in Japan and should be done in moderation. Alcohol abuse includes underage drinking, unauthorized possession and/or distribution of alcohol, or drinking while operating a vehicle; this will not be tolerated.

Drug Use. There is zero tolerance for the possession, manufacturing, trafficking, distribution, or use of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, as well as abuse, or misuse, of prescription drugs, period.

Testing. Substance abuse testing will occur monthly within the squadron with trained Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO), Urinalysis Program Coordinator (UPC) and Observer oversight. Participants will be selected at random, and additional screenings will occur for all Marines reporting in from Permanent Change of Assignment/Station, Unauthorized Absence, Reenlistments, and leave periods of 7-days; all will be subject to testing within 72-hours of arrival/return.

Individual Responsibility. It is our duty to ensure we are mission ready always. Know your limits when it comes to responsible drinking, and always have a safe travel/liberty plan. Be vigilant and know the signs of someone who is abusing alcohol or drugs. If we see or suspect one of our teammates is abusing a substance, intervene and report it to ensure that they get the help that they need as soon as possible. If we do not do this, the likelihood of an alcohol related incident becomes more likely, potentially ruining careers and having negative personal impacts. Always look after each other as we all play a critical role within our squadron and cannot afford to lose anyone.

Consequences for Non-Compliance. Non-compliance will result in swift appropriate administrative action and/or prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

Resources. Additional information and details are located in MCO 5300.17A. Assistance and information are also available through the Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18 Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO) at 315-645-5634 in Okinawa or at 808-457-1958 for Hawaii as well as the chain-of-command.

All leaders within MWCS-18 must routinely incorporate substance-abuse-related topics into weekly safety briefs to ensure Marines remain aware of the associated negative impacts. Let's all commit to ensuring that substance abuse is not a problem within our squadron via engaged leadership and a common understanding of what is and what is not allowed.

Semper Fidelis,

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