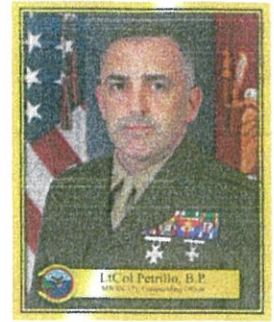




**MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 171  
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12  
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING**



**POLICY ON ALCOHOL/SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Throughout our recent history, there have been Marines, Sailors, and Civilians attached to the Marine Corps have put themselves in negative situations which detract from our core values of honor, courage, and commitment. This small number of personnel have caused grave damage to the Marine Corps' honor and undermined our critical relationship with the Japanese people. These same situations have the propensity to detract from our MWSS core focus: warfighting proficiency. A common theme with these situations is that they almost always involve some form of substance abuse.

To enable the vast majority of you who do the right thing every day to continue upholding our mission, I am setting this policy for alcohol and substance abuse. I will neither tolerate substance abuse, nor those who seek to create the situations by which substances are abused. My policy is zero tolerance for the use, manufacturing, trafficking, distribution of illegal and banned substances to include unauthorized use of prescription drugs, and driving under the influence. Substance abuse also includes over-indulgence of alcohol, specifically in a region where even a small amount can ruin a career, a relationship, or a life. All TAD, FAP, and leave Marines will be held responsible for their actions even if they are temporarily geographically separated from MCAS, Iwakuni.

While a member of MWSS-171, if you test positive for illegal drugs you will be held accountable under the UCMJ and subject to processing for separation from the Marine Corps. Alcohol and substance abuse are damaging to our combat readiness and remain contrary to good ambassadorship with our host nation.

Whether we get a chance to continue our mission as a whole team, or if we have to take action against a fellow Marine or Sailor depends solely on CHOICE. YOU have a CHOICE to participate or not, drink too much or not, have a good plan or not. As members of the 171 family, YOU have the CHOICE to exercise good leadership and keep a fellow Sentinel out of trouble.

I also take my responsibility to help any Marine or Sailor struggling with substance abuse seriously. Any member of our command troubled with these issues is encouraged to seek assistance through the Substance Abuse Counseling Officer (SACO). They can do so with utmost confidentiality and without fear of punishment or reprisal from the chain command.

We live in one of the most interesting time periods in our history. More than ever, our nation and the Japanese people look to us to support our values and sustain peace in the region. You play a huge role in whether we can uphold that commitment, or if we fail those who put their trust in us to do the right thing.

How can you be "first to fight for right and freedom" if you cannot keep your (and our) honor clean? We must keep our eye on the mission and to be "ready for all things."

*In Omnia Paratus,*

**B. P. PETRILLO**  
Lieutenant Colonel