



HMLA-367

Substance Abuse Policy

Reference: MCO 300.17



Substance abuse is detrimental to the good order and discipline in the Marine Corps. We shall always have clear minds in the workplace, free from drugs and the effects of alcohol.

Alcohol abuse and the distribution, possession, use, trafficking or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia is contrary to the effective performance of Marines and to the Marine Corps Mission. We will enforce the Marine Corps Zero Tolerance Policy on substance abuse.

Substance abuse is defined as the use of any drug, legal or illegal, in a manner that has an adverse impact on the readiness, welfare, or operations of the Squadron or individual. The term “substance” includes alcohol and illegal drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, or methamphetamines. This also includes substances not currently controlled by the United States, but other products such as designer drugs (spice) and anabolic steroids. Wrongful use of a controlled substance, prescription medication, over-the-counter medication, or an intoxicating substance constitutes violations of the Marine Corps Substance Abuse Program MCO 5300.17. Any Marine found guilty of any violation to this order shall be punished to the full extent of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The use of alcohol is extensive in our Corps and part of our culture. When consumed responsibly, and in moderation, it may add to an enjoyable experiences for many. However, use of alcohol to an extent that is has an adverse effect on performance, conduct, discipline, or mission effectiveness, and/or to the user’s health, behavior, family, community, or the Marine Corps, constitutes alcohol abuse. We must strictly monitor our own consumption and the consumption of alcohol of others that may lead to unacceptable behavior. DUI, sexual assaults, domestic abuse, and violence is often attributed to excessive alcohol consumption. Do not allow yourself or your fellow Marines to drink themselves into an alcohol-related incident (ARI). There are highly qualified professionals at our disposal to refer Marines who need help with alcohol dependence and/or abuse.

It is the responsibility of the individual, and those around them, to seek referrals from the Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO) for evaluations and/or treatment from the on-base Substance Abuse Center professionals.

Team Scarface shall abide by the following guidance concerning alcohol consumption:

- If you choose to drink, do so responsibly and in moderation.
- Be wise in choosing where to drink, what to drink, and with whom you drink.
- Always have a SOLID plan prior to your first drink, and stick to your plan!
- If your plan fails, be sure to make the right decision and/or get help.

Do not discredit yourself, your unit, or your Corps. PROTECT WHAT YOU'VE EARNED!

**Lieutenant Colonel Page Payne, USMC
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