

Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group – 36 Substance Abuse Policy

Substance abuse is a nationwide concern, but for forward-deployed Marines and Sailors, it has particularly dangerous consequences. Every alcohol and substance abuse related incident that occurs deteriorates the mission effectiveness of our unit and places a heavier burden on the Marines and Sailors that remain. For a warfighting organization such as ours, substance abuse is a readiness concern that we will address with aggressive prevention and intervention efforts.

Prevention is ineffective unless leaders set the example by abstaining from illegal drugs and demonstrating mature, responsible drinking at all times. Habitual over-consumption of alcohol is a drag on the individual, degrades professional performance, and frequently contributes to domestic abuse, financial difficulties, and sexual assault. To ensure that effectiveness, I expect leaders to set the example and ensure all Marines are aware of the Marine Corps' commitment to prevent drug and alcohol abuse. I expect leaders to be alert to characteristics of substance abuse and the symptoms of alcohol dependency. You must not, in any way, promote or condone the misuse of drugs or alcohol. In short, I expect you to reinforce the policy that drug and alcohol abuse is not tolerated and those who abuse these substances will be held accountable for their actions.



Use of illegal drugs and misuse of prescription medications: the wrongful use, possession, manufacture, distribution, or introduction of controlled substances is prohibited by Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. MCO 5300.17A prohibits the wrongful use, possession, manufacture, distribution, or introduction of a controlled substance, such as a designer drug, natural substances, chemicals (e.g., chemicals wrongfully used as inhalants), propellants, prescribed or over-the-counter drugs or pharmaceutical compounds with the intent to induce intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI), also known as Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), drunk driving, or impaired driving is the crime of driving a motor vehicle while impaired by alcohol or drugs, including those prescribed by physicians. Getting caught is a life-altering event that will destroy everything that you have worked for, never mind the lives that will be forever changed if you do cause a serious or fatal accident. Considering these consequences, you should consider taking a taxi, the use of Daiko services, or even walking if you have been drinking. Remember: "Not One Drop If You're Driving."

When a Marine or Sailor is identified as having a substance abuse problem or has been involved in a substance abuse or alcohol related incident, he/she will be sent to the Substance Abuse Control Officer for an initial screening. From that screening, they will be referred to Substance Abuse Counseling Center, for any further treatment and counseling, as required per MCO 5300.17A.

Keys to intervention include timely identification, early intervention, effective treatment, rehabilitation, and appropriate disciplinary or administrative actions, followed by restoration to full duty or separation as appropriate. Additionally any individual who refuses, fails to participate, or does not successfully complete treatment or aftercare and is determined a treatment failure by a Medical Officer, will be processed for separation.

Our Urinalysis Testing Program is central to both prevention and intervention for drug-related abuse issues. All Marines and Sailors will be tested. Monthly, we will test at least 10% of the Units total strength; SACOs; UPCs; observers; Marines and Sailors returning from leave exceeding seven days, checking in from a Permanent Change of Station (PCS); and Unauthorized Absent (UA) regardless of geographical locations. If you are concerned about someone you believe has a substance abuse problem, contact the Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO). He is equipped with tools to help any Marine and Sailor from destroying their careers and lives. Every Marine is essential to the mission. Take care of yourself, and take care of each other.


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