



Marine Wing Support Squadron – 172 Commanding Officer's Statement on Substance Abuse



Substance abuse is a direct threat to our mission, has a negative effect on the good order and discipline of the Squadron, and has no place in our Corps.

Abuse includes the use of:

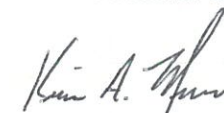
- Illicit drugs that are illegal to use or possess.
- Prescription medication that is used outside the parameters of intended use.
- Alcohol; The most abused drug of all, which not only has the potential to destroy careers but personal lives as well.

Additionally, although opinions and laws are undergoing adjustment in the civilian sector, let me remind everyone that *marijuana use is still a violation of the UCMJ*. It makes no difference if you use this substance in a state that has legalized it...you are still in violation as an active duty Marine or Sailor.

We will take care of our fellow Marines and Sailors through prevention and timely identification. Anyone determined to have a drug or alcohol incident will be Command Referred to the Substance Abuse Control Officer, screened, counseled, and if found to be alcohol or drug dependent, they will be assigned to the appropriate treatment program. If you feel you have a Substance Abuse issue, I encourage you to seek out the myriad of programs designed to help address those issues through a Self-Referral.

Some additional comments regarding alcohol specifically: If you are 20 years of age and not in a Tier 3 liberty status, as an American DoD member stationed in Japan you may responsibly partake of alcoholic beverages. I ask that you do this responsibly and not become "that Guy" or "that Girl." There is an antiquated view of the embodiment of a Marine as being a hard-drinking brawler or someone who hasn't arrived until you got a DUI. These versions of a Marine are relics from the past, if they were even accurate to begin with. *We pride ourselves in our self-discipline and I challenge each of you to be disciplined in your alcohol consumption as well.*

Abuse of substances affects not only the user but the friends, family, and unit of that individual. Avoiding illicit substances, using prescription medications as intended, and refraining from irresponsible alcohol use is the expectation. It only takes one instance of using an illicit substance or inebriated poor decision-making to wreck a career of otherwise stellar accomplishments.


K. A. MISNER
"Firebird 6"