



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



Alcohol abuse and the distribution, possession, use, and trafficking or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia is contrary to our Core Values and Marine Corps Regulations. Alcohol and drug abuse reduces Squadron readiness, good order and discipline, unit cohesion, and morale. It can also negatively impacts an individual's career, family, and life.

We must all **Protect What We Have Earned** and embrace the higher standard that the Corps and our Nation expects of us. **Drug abuse will not be tolerated. Drug abuse or misuse will be dealt with swiftly and effectively and may result in legal and administrative actions. At a minimum, drug abuse violations will be processed for administrative separation** and may result in separation from the service and loss of valuable benefits.

We must also drink alcohol responsibly (if of legal age). In order to **Survive, Strive, and Thrive**, we all must all be intentional about the use of time and talent to grow and develop. Alcohol abuse is a threat to our mission, reputation, and personal growth and development.

What I want you to do:

1. **Do not use or associate with illegal drugs, illegal drug paraphernalia, controlled substances, or people that do.**
2. **Do not drink underage, do not drink and drive, and do not binge drink.**
3. Do abstain from drinking, if you want to abstain. It's OK, you can still participate and have fun.
4. Do drink responsibly (if of legal age); have an safe plan; model good behavior; have at least 1 sober liberty buddy.
5. Do find and pursue healthy behaviors and hobbies (e.g. read, take classes, exercise, sleep).
6. Do help a peer, subordinate, or senior to get assistance.
7. Do pursue and encourage self-referral options for alcohol abuse.
8. Do report knowledge of illegal substance abuse or possession of illegal drugs to the Chain of Command.

What the Squadron will do:

1. **Establish program** activities that comply with the references below.
2. Execute a **robust prevention approach** focused on training to educate the Squadron on regulations, expectations, warning signs, protective measures, and risks.
3. **Execute deterrence programs** including the urinalysis program; alcohol screening; and supervision at all levels to deter and identify misuse or abuse of illegal substances. **Plan on regular drug testing and alcohol screening.**
4. Provide continuing actions to **support treatment, aftercare, and return of FIREBIRDS to full duty.** This includes close communication with installation services, transportation and escort to ensure active treatment, adjusting liberty status, and monitoring behaviors and attitudes through the Squadron's Force Preservation Council and other staff coordination.
5. Conduct legal or administrative actions necessary to **maintain good order and discipline** of the unit.

Use everyday for constructive efforts to improve your mind, body, spirit, and social fitness. **Today Matters, and You Matter!!** Enjoy leave and liberty and **keep improving and upholding the FIREBIRD's reputation.** My desired environment is one with no Squadron DUIs, no drug pops, open reporting about drugs and alcohol abuse, a climate of self-referral, a drug-free Squadron area, no binge drinking, and improved leadership and personal readiness.

MCO 5300.17A Substance Abuse Program
WgO 5350 Substance Abuse Reduction Prog
SqdrnO 5300.1A SACO SOP