



Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 Marine Aircraft Group 36

COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SUBSTANCE MISUSE



"Alcohol abuse and the use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia is contrary to the effective performance of Marines and to the Marine Corps mission." - MCO 5300.17A w/ Admin CH-1

Every MWSS-172 Marine and Sailor is critical to our unit's mission, and must not misuse or abuse prescription medication, or drink alcohol in excess. Both prescription medication and alcohol misuse are severely detrimental to combat readiness, undermine health, safety, discipline, and are incompatible with the high standards required of us to be ready to "Fight Tonight".

Alcohol Use. Alcohol shall be consumed responsibly and in moderation only by Marines and Sailors of legal drinking age, Legal drinking age is defined as 21 years of age in the United States or 20 years of age in Japan. Alcohol misuse includes underage drinking, unauthorized possession and/or distribution of alcohol, or drinking while operating a motor vehicle. These behaviors will not be tolerated.

Drug Use. There is a zero tolerance for the use, possession, manufacture, distribution, or trafficking of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia. This includes the misuse, or abuse of prescription medication that is used outside the parameters of prescribed therapeutic use. With multiple changes to possession laws and the individual state policies on marijuana, to include CBD, marijuana usage is still a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). It makes no difference if you are from a state that has legalized the substance; you are still in violation as an active-duty Marine or Sailor.

Deterrence Urinalysis Testing. Urinalysis Testing will occur monthly within the squadron by the Urinalysis Program Coordinators (UPCs) and Observers, with Substance Assessment and Coordination Officer (SACO) oversight. Participants will be selected at random, with additional screenings for all Marines and Sailors reporting in from PCA/PCS, UA, and/or leave periods in excess of 7 days; all aforementioned personnel will be subject to testing within 72 hours of arrival/return.

Individual Responsibility. It is our duty to ensure we are mission ready at all times. Know your limits when it comes to responsible drinking, and always have a safe travel/liberty plan. Be vigilant and know the signs of someone who is misusing alcohol or drugs. If we see or suspect one of our teammates is misusing a substance, intervene and report it to ensure they get the help that they need as soon as possible. If we don't, the likelihood of an alcohol-related incident (ARI) increases, potentially ruining careers, and having negative personal impacts. Always look after one another as each and every one of you play a critical role within our squadron.

Consequences for Non-Compliance. Non-compliance will result in a swift, appropriate administrative action and/or prosecution under the UCMJ.

Resources. Additional information and details are located in MCO 5300.17A. In addition, assistance and information are available through the MWSS-172 SACO at 315-645-7165 as well as the immediate chain-of-command.

All leaders within MWSS-172 must routinely incorporate substance misuse related topics into weekly safety briefs to ensure Marines and Sailors remain aware of the associated negative impacts. Let us all commit to ensuring that substance misuse is not a problem within our squadron via engaged leadership and a common understanding of what is and not allowed.

Semper Fidelis,

all in

A. T. Moyer

Lieutenant Colonel, USMC

Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 172

