



Commanding Officer's Substance Abuse Statement



Substance abuse is a nationwide issue found in all sectors of our lives. The Marine Corps is held to a higher standard and demands the best of our fellow Marines, Sailors and Civilians, yet substance abuse still permeates our ranks. It affects morale and unit cohesion, and it degrades performance, effectiveness, and unit readiness. Substance abuse is contrary to our Core Values, and can result in serious injury, death, and damage to equipment.

My policy is simple – ZERO TOLERANCE

- I will take administrative action on any Marine, Sailor or Civilian determined to be abusing.

This command will provide well-trained, physically fit, and mentally alert personnel in an environment where they can successfully accomplish their assigned duty. Personnel that abuse drugs and alcohol negatively impact the achievement of this objective, and also destroy the health of personnel, their careers, and eventually their families.

Substance abuse is not limited to the use of illegal drugs. Prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs, and alcohol abuse can be just as dangerous when used in ways which are not consistent with their intended purpose. Drugs and alcohol impair a person's capacity to think clearly, assess risk, and act responsibly. Abuse can quickly become a significant contributor to domestic abuse, sexual harassment, injury, and death.

We are professionals and will be held accountable for our actions. Those that choose to abuse drugs or alcohol rarely do so alone. In many cases, peers know of the abuse and decide to do nothing. **Those who tolerate substance abuse in others and do nothing are culpable!** Demonstrating the moral courage to identify and help those abusing will test each of you. Pass this test by getting help for the individual, for their own sake and for the health of our Corps.

I will utilize an aggressive compulsory Urinalysis Testing Program. This system will ensure annual drug screening of all Marines and Sailors, regardless of rank. We will randomly test at least ten percent of our unit monthly, and will also test a smaller number of personnel on a random and more frequent basis, with the intent to reduce predictability and to increase deterrence of substance abuse.

If you are concerned that someone you know has a substance abuse problem, obtain help through your medical provider, professional addiction counselor, or command Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO). There are a variety of programs available to help our Marines and families, and the squadron SACO can provide help or resources to anyone who needs it. Every member of the Air Station is essential to this command and critical to our mission success. Degrading our readiness and combat effectiveness due to unprofessional behavior of abusing drugs or alcohol is not acceptable. Finally, possess the commitment to a lifestyle that will promote your best performance.

Semper Fidelis,

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