



COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE



As your Commanding Officer, ensuring the health, safety, and operational readiness of this installation is my absolute priority. To that end, I want to clearly outline my stance on substance abuse as described in MCO 5300.17A.

Recent medical research paints a sobering picture of alcohol's impact on the human body. Extensive studies increasingly demonstrate that heavy and binge drinking not only damage the liver, but significantly accelerate cognitive decline, increase cardiovascular risks, and severely degrade physical recovery times. As members of a premier fighting force, we rely on peak physical and mental performance to accomplish our mission. Binge drinking is a readiness degrader and is inconsistent with our warfighting ethos.

For those of you who are of legal age and choose to drink, I expect you to do so responsibly and in moderation. Let me be clear: consuming alcohol and maintaining the highest standards of Marine Corps conduct are not mutually exclusive. You can enjoy a drink with your brothers and sisters in arms without compromising your ability and desire to train hard the next morning.

However, when it comes to drinking and driving, my policy is that operating any vehicle while over the legal limit will not be tolerated. This includes privately owned vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, and e-scooters. A DUI is a completely preventable choice that endangers your life, the lives of our local community, and your career. Have a solid plan in place before you take your first sip to ensure you do not get behind the wheel impaired.

I also recognize that alcohol can quietly become a burden. If you know deep down that you have a problem, or if you simply want to reduce your consumption to improve your health, I highly encourage you to utilize our self-referral programs. Seeking help through our Substance Assessment and Counseling Center is a sign of immense strength and self-awareness. It is the right choice, and we will support you in getting back on track.

Regarding our deterrence measures, we will execute an aggressive, unpredictable urinalysis program. I want you to view this not as a net waiting to catch you, but as a shield protecting our team. It gives every Marine and Sailor a built-in, unarguable excuse to resist peer pressure in any social situation. When someone offers you something you shouldn't take, your answer is simple and final: "I can't, my command tests relentlessly."

Finally, let there be no ambiguity regarding illegal drugs or the misuse of prescription medications: we have zero tolerance. Any violation of this standard results in mandatory processing for administrative separation in accordance with Marine Corps policy.

We protect our own. Make smart choices, look out for one another, and get ready.

Semper Fidelis,


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