

COMMANDING OFFICERS STATEMENT ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

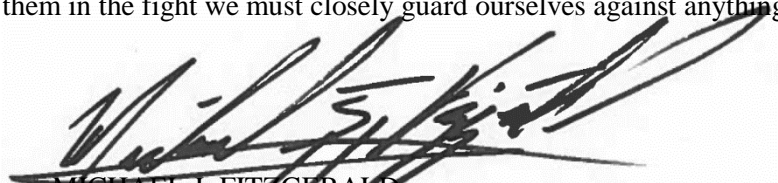


As your Commanding Officer, I have a zero tolerance policy for substance and alcohol abuse. The use, distribution, or possession of illegal drugs, or abuse/misuse of prescription drugs and alcohol, to include driving under the influence, is inconsistent with our Core Values. Substance abuse has a devastating impact on mission readiness and safety. In accordance with MCO 5300.17, distribution, possession, or use of illegal drugs or misuse/abuse of alcohol is contrary to the effective performance of Marines as well as the Marine Corps' mission. Any Marine or Sailor who participates sale, use, manufacturing, or distribution of illegal drugs, in violation of applicable provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), federal, state, or local statutes, shall be disciplined as appropriate and processed for administrative separation. Similarly, any Marine known to have driven while intoxicated, regardless of the level of civilian adjudication; will be disciplined under the UCMJ for disobedience of a direct order.

This policy also applies to the use of controlled substances including designer and synthetic drugs. These types of drugs generally fall into three major categories: synthetic cannabinoids (marijuana), synthetic stimulants (often marketed as "bath salts" but mimicking cocaine and methamphetamines) and synthetic hallucinogens (mimicking LSD and Ecstasy). These products are extremely dangerous and have been linked with multiple hospitalizations, crimes, and deaths in the United States. Leadership at all levels should be on the lookout for the warning signs associated with the use of these and all other illegal drugs. Aggressive and proactive leadership and substance abuse policies are the key to identifying and stopping the abuse of drugs and alcohol. To support this effort, the following active deterrence measures, at a minimum, will occur:

- Random urinalysis testing will take place each month.
- Random testing through the alcohol-screening program (ASP) each month.
- Random, announced and unannounced, health and comfort inspections of billeting areas/ work spaces.
- All Marines and Sailors reporting aboard via permanent change of station orders or leave will be tested within 72 hours of arrival.
- All personnel involved in the collection and shipment of urine samples will be tested at least once per month.

Your fellow Marines depend on you to keep them in the fight we must closely guard ourselves against anything that detracts from our mission.



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