



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE AVIATION DETACHMENT NAS PATUXENT RIVER
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NAVAL AIR STATION
PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND 20670-1188

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CO
20 Dec 21

POLICY LETTER 07-21

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Aviation Detachment NAS Patuxent River
To: All Hands

Subj: SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Ref: (a) MCO 5300.17A

1. Purpose. This policy provides the framework and methodology for the command's conduct of its substance abuse program and assigns associating responsibilities per the reference.

2. Cancellation. This policy will remain in effect until revised or cancelled by the appropriate authority.

3. Information. The Executive Officer and Sergeant Major will ensure that all substance abuse incidents and courtesy turnovers are reported to the appropriate chain-of-command and the Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO). The command's and Marine Corps' policy on alcohol is low-risk use, at an appropriate place and time, and in an appropriate quantity. The command will emphasize responsibility and moderation at all events and shall deglamorize alcohol use during traditional ceremonies by forbidding those practices which may encourage personnel to drink irresponsibly. It is the responsibility of all officers, staff non-commissioned officers, and non-commissioned officers to ensure incidents of substance abuse are reported, documented, and referred to the SACO. Ultimately, all Marines of the command are responsible for their own actions and will be held accountable.

a. Types of Referrals. Provide a means of early intervention in the progression of substance abuse by which members can obtain help before a problem becomes more advanced and more difficult to resolve without risk of disciplinary action. Self-referral is personally initiated by the member who desires counseling or treatment for substance abuse problems. Command referral is initiated by the member's chain-of-command and may be based on any credible factor such as personal observation or noticeable change in job performance. To qualify as a command-referral or self-referral, there can be no credible evidence of the member's involvement in a substance abuse-related incident. The reference provides additional information on command-referral/self-referral reporting criteria and qualified representatives.

b. Referral for Screening (Post Incident). An offense(s), punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) or civilian laws, committed by a member to which, in the judgment of the Commanding Officer, the offender's consumption of alcohol was a contributing factor. The reference provides examples of post-incident referrals.

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4. Scope. This policy pertains to all personnel assigned to the Marine Aviation Detachment.

5. Methodology. The following provisions are to clarify command requirements in regards to the MAD's substance abuse policy.

a. Non-alcoholic alternative drinks shall be available at all unit sponsored events.

b. Marine Aviation Detachment (MAD) personnel shall adhere to the Marine Corps' "ZERO Tolerance" policy on drug abuse. Drug abuse involves the wrongful use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of a controlled substance. Members who choose to abuse drugs will be subject to criminal charges under the UCMJ and will be processed for administrative separation from the Marine Corps.

c. The command will randomly select a minimum of ten percent of the command's personnel every month for urinalysis testing in order to remain in compliance with the reference. A unit sweep will be conducted at least once annually. All personnel checking into the command from Permanent Change of Station, Unauthorized Absence, and extended leave periods (exceeding 7 days) will be tested within 72 hours of arrival/return to the unit.

d. Members under 21 years-of-age are strictly prohibited from consuming alcohol and any violation may subject the member to disciplinary or administrative action via the UCMJ and governing civilian laws.

e. Providing alcohol to anyone under 21 years-of-age is illegal and chargeable under the UCMJ.

f. Alcohol related incidents and a positive urinalysis shall be documented on fitness reports and the member's permanent service record per the reference.

g. Members convicted of Driving Under the Influence (DUI)/Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) or have committed any alcohol/drug abuse offense are subject to disciplinary action via the UCMJ and governing civilian laws.

h. Members charged with DUI/DWI or any other substance abuse related offense will take leave when appearing in civilian court and/or while attending civilian court mandated training as a result of conviction.

6. Certification. As the Commanding Officer, my goal is to ensure our Marines do not abuse drugs, use illegal drugs, or abuse alcohol responsibly. Drug and alcohol abuse is a severe detriment to combat readiness in terms of performance, reliability, judgment, and time lost. It undermines health, safety, discipline, and loyalty and is incompatible with the maintenance of high standards of performance, military discipline and readiness. Therefore, proactive involvement and education at all levels of command leadership is imperative in enabling us to achieve this goal.


J. W. EGGSTAFF