



**COMMANDER'S  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
POLICY STATEMENT**



Substance abuse brings discredit upon the Marine Corps, undercuts our core values, degrades combat readiness, and often results in needless criminal conduct, or worse, loss of life. As such, substance abuse is unacceptable, and Marines of all ranks have a responsibility to exercise the appropriate leadership to curtail it.

Substance abuse is a broad term which includes, but is not limited to, the use of illegal drugs or artificial/synthetic materials (e.g. Spice, K2), abuse of legal prescription medication, and abuse of alcohol. No matter where you reside or drill, Federal law and Marine Corps policy prohibit such use/abuse – do not fall victim to false rumor that you are in the clear because State laws have changed!

To counter this issue, Intelligence Support Battalion (ISB) will engage in a multi-pronged approach to prevent, identify, treat, and eliminate all forms of alcohol and substance abuse. The primary focus of this endeavor will be on prevention, education, detection, intervention, and discipline for offenders. The employment of regularly scheduled and random urinalysis and breathalyzer tests will assist in this effort. Per the governing Marine Corps Order, ISB will test every Marine for drug abuse by urinalysis at least once annually. Additionally, ten percent of the unit will be tested randomly each month, and individual Marines will be tested when executing orders or returning from extended leave periods. Those who are found to be abusing drugs will be held accountable, to include automatic processing for administrative separation. This systematic approach will enhance both unit and family readiness by arming decision makers with the knowledge and resources to identify, intervene, and treat abuse BEFORE it becomes a debilitating problem.

Focusing on alcohol – **Marines continue to have challenges with alcohol abuse.** Despite being the smallest service, the Marine Corps deals with more alcohol related incidents than any other branch, and far exceeds the national average for civilians. Worse, the abuse of alcohol is a major contributing factor to other crimes, most notably, sexual assault and DUI/DWI. The abuse of alcohol will impact your health, career, freedom, family and future. As members of the Intelligence Community, we have the added responsibility of protecting our security clearances – alcohol related incidents put your character into question, leading to questions regarding your suitability to hold/maintain a clearance. This too, could be career ending. Be responsible (for those of legal age!).

We must take care of one another. Drug and alcohol abuse may be symptom of a much larger issue – combat stress, marital issues, and financial burdens. It could also simply result from peer pressure and immaturity. Regardless, it is incumbent on all Marines to stay vigilant, identify those at risk and help guide them to assistance. Resources are available through the chain of command, the MARFORRES Psychological Health Outreach Program (PHOP), the Battalion Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO), Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) and TRICARE. The Command SACO is Gunnery Sergeant Crips, who can be reached at (504) 697-7230 or [pcrips@usmc.mil](mailto:pcrips@usmc.mil).

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