



Commanding General's Policy on Substance Abuse



The sad reality is the frequency with which military careers are ended by alcohol and substance abuse. It is also at the heart of other troubling issues that plague the Marine Corp: Suicides, sexual assaults, domestic violence, accidents, and hazing incidents. Thus, dealing appropriately with alcohol and substance abuse is of paramount importance. This command will not tolerate substance abuse, including the use of illegal drugs, the misuse of legal or prescription drugs, and/or alcohol abuse, particularly that which results in criminal behavior. Alcohol and substance abuse is an obstacle that prevents Marines and sailors from performing their duties, and it puts others at risk.



Commanders must be familiar with MCO 5300.17. The legal drinking age in the United States is 21 years old, and at no time are Marines or sailors allowed to use illegal or legal drugs if they are not prescribed to them. Marines and sailors are not allowed to share or sell any prescription medications. Units are directed to conduct urinalysis in accordance with policy, and a positive test result will, at a minimum, lead to processing for administrative separation. The Marine Corps has zero tolerance for illegal drug use in.

If a Marine or sailor self-reports alcohol or substance abuse problems, he/she should receive a referral to the Substance Abuse Control Officer/Specialist (SACO/S). The SACO/S will follow the traditional course of evaluation and treatment, and if found alcohol or substance abuse dependent, the Marine or sailor will be assigned to the appropriate treatment program.

We have to look out for one another. A Marine or sailor who suspects alcohol or substance abuse in the unit, must address it through the chain of command. Eliminating alcohol and substance abuse reduces other problems, leading to a safer, more ready Marine Corps.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. A. Hashimoto".

M. A. HASHIMOTO

Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve
Commanding General, Force Headquarters Group