



**COMMANDER'S
SUBSTANCE ABUSE
POLICY STATEMENT**



Substance abuse directly degrades readiness, brings discredit upon the Marine Corps, and is contrary to our core values. Substance abuse is unacceptable, and Marines of all ranks are responsible for preserving the overall health and readiness of Marines and their families with a healthy command climate the discourages substance abuse.

Substance abuse or misuse is defined in Marine Corps Order (MCO) 5300.17A as the use of any substance, including alcohol, in a manner that puts the user at risk of failing in their responsibilities to mission or family, or that is considered unlawful by regulation, policy, or law. Substance abuse or misuse generally includes negative consequences to health and/or well-being of the user or others. In simpler terms, substance abuse is the use of alcohol or drugs, legal or illegal, that adversely impact you or others. No matter where you reside or drill, Federal law and Marine Corps policy prohibit substance abuse, regardless of dynamic state laws.

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. Per the governing MCO 5300.17A, ISB manages a systematic approach to test all Marines for drugs through scheduled and random urinalysis and breathalyzer tests. Those found in violation of regulation, policy, or law 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. Marines are strongly encouraged to recognize early warning signs of substance abuse in themselves and their peers, and to seek help proactively—before it leads to an incident or consequences that could affect their health, careers, or security clearances.

Despite being the smallest service, the Marine Corps accounts for 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 and demand responsibility of others.

We must take care of one another. Drug and alcohol abuse may be symptom of a much larger issue. 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 Assessment Coordination Officer (SACO), Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) and TRICARE.

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