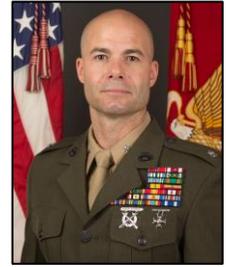




## Marine Wing Support Squadron 271 Substance Abuse Policy Statement



There is **zero tolerance** in the Marine Corps for the distribution, possession, use, trafficking or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, or the abuse of legal but controlled substances. The illegal use of drugs is inconsistent with our core values, degrades unit performance, erodes the safety of our service members, exposes our families to risk, degrades combat readiness, and negatively impacts our ability to perform our mission. ***Any confirmed violators of this policy may be subject to adverse or administrative actions and will be immediately processed for administrative separation.***

Per MCO 5300.17, the "abuse" of drugs includes the "misuse or wrongful use of a substance; whether or not used therapeutically, legally, or prescribed by a physician." Per the definition, substance abuse is not isolated to illegal drugs. Alcohol, prescription medications, and over-the-counter drugs can be just as dangerous when used or abused in ways not consistent with their intended purpose.

As Marines and regardless of occupational specialty, we are in a dangerous profession and risk is inherent to everything that we do. The abuse of alcohol and drugs severely reduces a person's capacity to perform, degrades good judgment, and creates unacceptable risk. Every member of the MWSS-271 team is critical to the success of our mission and is irreplaceable. We cannot afford to lose a single member of this command to the ill effects of alcohol or drugs.

Our goal will be the prevention and eradication of alcohol and drug abuse within our ranks. The squadron's substance abuse program will focus on prevention through three lines of effort: education and life-skills training, deterrence through testing, and treatment.

- a. All Marines regardless of rank will receive annual prevention awareness education and training. Education will aim to improve individual and collective judgment and decision-making by expanding the knowledge of the effects of alcohol and drugs on the body.
- b. Command readiness will be sustained through an aggressive and compulsory illicit drug use testing program whereby all Marines regardless of rank will be systematically screened annually for the presence of drugs; at least ten percent of the command population will be randomly selected for drug testing every month; and all Marines reporting aboard via permanent change of station orders, permanent change of assignment orders or leave/temporary duty periods greater than five days will be tested within 72 hours of arrival.
- c. Treatment is a paramount concern and any individual classified with an alcohol or drug abuse problem will be assessed by the unit SACO and referred to a treatment facility for medical evaluation and rehabilitation. If diagnosed with a problem, you will be offered any and all assistance available to get you the help you need.

Without prejudice and with impartiality, anyone who possesses, uses, or distributes illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, or abuses legal but controlled substances will be held accountable, counseled and disciplined in accordance with MCO 5300.17. Every member of the MWSS-271 team must be committed to the excellence of the organization and the complete eradication of alcohol and illicit substance abuse from our ranks. We will achieve our goal through involved leadership, training, treatment, and persistent vigilance to prevent this illegal behavior from degrading our unit performance, weakening combat readiness, and eroding the general welfare of our Marines, Sailors and families.

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