



26TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT COMMANDING OFFICER POLICY STATEMENT



SUBSTANCE ABUSE

INTENT: The 26 MEU Team will maintain optimum mental and physical capability to conduct combat operations. Through education of the dangers of substance abuse, adherence to our Core Values, and strict enforcement of policies, orders, and directives regarding substance abuse, our unit will be free of illegal drug use, substance abuse, and reckless alcohol use.

Our minds and bodies are our first and most basic weapon system. Substance abuse degrades the health and performance of the abuser and puts fellow Teammates at risk. It violates the trust we place in each other to “keep our honor clean,” which is counter to our Core Values.

Substance Abuse is the use of any drug not for its intended purpose or used in excess. Substances include alcohol, all illegal drugs, synthetic, and prescription drugs. Abuse of other substances with the intent of becoming ‘high’ is also considered substance abuse.

The Marine Corps’ policy on illegal drug use is simple: Zero Tolerance. Personnel who choose to violate this policy will be subject to criminal and administrative action per the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Alcohol is a legal substance but abuse of it is unacceptable. Too often, alcohol causes a Marine or Sailor to make poor decisions that at best will damage their career and at worst will cause injury or death to themselves and others. I will not tolerate use of alcohol as an excuse for irresponsible behavior. Illegal drug use will result in processing for administrative separation and both drug or alcohol abuse may result in further administrative or disciplinary action. If you are of the legal age and intend to drink, do so in moderation and responsibly. Do not drive a vehicle if you have been drinking. If a Teammate is about to take the wheel after drinking, have the courage to take the keys and take care of them. Your action could be life-saving.

If you have a problem with alcohol use, take the initiative and reach out to your chain of command or the 26 MEU Substance Abuse Control Officer, Chief Tyson J. Brind’Amour, at (910)-265-2651, for assistance. You have my pledge that you will be treated with respect and supported while undergoing treatment. Recognizing and correcting the problem is honorable and courageous. Attempting to hide an alcohol problem betrays the trust of your fellow Marines and Sailors.

Marines who abuse drugs or alcohol rarely do so in isolation. Others often know what is happening and look the other way rather than having the courage to get involved. Get involved, do the right thing, protect each other.


J. B. REID
COMMANDING OFFICER


C. R. TAYLOR
SERGEANT MAJOR