

26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

Substance Abuse and Responsible Drinking Policy



***We are professionals serving in an elite organization...
We don't do drugs and we don't abuse alcohol.***

POLICY LETTER 07-20

From: Commanding Officer

To: 26th MEU Personnel

Subj: COMMANDING OFFICER'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND RESPONSIBLE DRINKING POLICY

- As an elite, combat ready, relevant, and capable expeditionary MAGTF, we must be ready to fight tonight and win in any clime or place. Drug and Alcohol abuse and/or misuse ultimately degrades our combat readiness and is inconsistent with the high standards of conduct expected of every Marine and Sailor assigned to the 26th MEU. As such, substance abuse and/or misuse prevention is critical to our combat readiness and a key element of force preservation. Further, as part of our misuse prevention efforts, leaders at all levels are directed to promote low risk and no-risk alcohol use, advocate for the proper use of prescription and over-the-counter medicines, and seek to eliminate illicit drug use through concerned and engaged leadership.
- We Don't Do Drugs.** The use, possession, or distribution of illegal or unauthorized prescription drugs – or any substance designed or taken to alter one's mental state – is strictly prohibited and will be dealt with in accordance with the UCMJ and the MARCORSEPMAN.
- We Don't Abuse Alcohol.** Drink responsibly – alcohol consumption is permissible when done within the framework of the law and when done responsibly. If you decide to drink, drink in moderation (low risk alcohol use) and remain in control of your actions – alcohol is not an excuse for undisciplined behavior or a lack of professionalism. All Alcohol Related Incidents will be reported to the 26th MEU Commander and investigated.
- We take care of our own.** Marines and Sailors assigned to the 26th MEU must ruthlessly safeguard our Team's reputation by ensuring our Marines and Sailors uphold the highest standards of professionalism and conduct, particularly if alcohol is being consumed or when fatigue is present. We must be attentive to the potential indications of drug and alcohol abuse and/or misuse. Moreover, we must be prepared to intervene to protect a fellow teammate – an active bystander with a bias for action is our first line of defense. Additionally, we take care of ourselves – it's OK to ask for help. We have a myriad of resources and support services available, ranging from counseling to various levels of in-patient treatment, for anyone needing or asking for help.
- The USMC Substance Abuse Program (SAP), MCO 5300.17A, is the governing document for this substance abuse and responsible drinking policy. MCO 5300.17A provides policy and procedural guidance in order to combat substance abuse. Key tenets of the program include: prevention through education and training, deterrence, timely identification, treatment, discipline or other administrative actions, and aftercare.
- We are professionals serving in an elite organization who uphold the highest standards of conduct and professionalism – unprofessional behavior, undisciplined conduct, drunkenness, or substance abuse can't and won't be tolerated. Every member of the 26th MEU has a moral and professional obligation to report known or suspected violations of this policy to the chain of command directly or via our "Anymouse" program.

Semper Fidelis!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.W. Sampson".

Colonel D.W. Sampson, USMC
Commanding Officer, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

