



**HEADQUARTERS BATTALION
TRAINING AND EDUCATION COMMAND
COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

25 July 2021



We will not tolerate illegal drug use in OUR formation.

POLICY. Illegal drug use is not tolerated in the Marine Corps. It erodes individual and team effectiveness and our ability to accomplish the Marine Corps' missions. Substance abuse is the use of any drug, legal or illegal, which has an adverse impact on the readiness, welfare or operations of a command or individual. The term "substance" includes alcohol and illegal drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, and hashish.

PREVENTION. Leaders at levels will remain vigilant for substance abuse; it can be prevented.

Guidance for Marines:

- **Engaged leadership is vital.** I expect leaders to set a positive example and to ensure those in their charge are informed of the dangers of substance abuse and understand substance abuse orders and policies.
- **Anyone who tests positive for illegal drug use, is known to distribute or possess illegal drugs, or found guilty for wrongful use of prescription medication will be charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and will be processed for separation.**
- **We will neither tolerate nor promote alcohol abuse, to include Driving under the Influence, within this command. We have an "Arrive Alive" program; use it!**

RESPONSE. Taking care of Marines with substance related concerns is essential to maintaining good order and discipline, and ultimately our effectiveness to fight our Nation's wars. Members will be afforded the opportunity to receive medical care through referral to the Consolidated Substance Abuse Counseling Center (CSACC). There are two referral options:

- **Command Referred:** Marines and Sailors involved in a substance-related incident are referred by their company commander to the Battalion Substance Abuse Control Officer (Bn SACO) for referral to the CSACC. Command referrals to CSACC will be completed within 48 hours of verification of a substance abuse related incident. Command referred members may be administratively processed under the UCMJ.
- **Self-Referred:** Marines and Sailors not involved in a substance-related incident but who have concerns in regards to their alcohol or prescribed medication usage, may refer themselves, without command influence, to the Bn SACO and/or CSACC for screening. "Self-Referrals" for substance related concerns will not be processed under the UCMJ provided they complete all required treatment.

Bottom Line – We will be proactive in our approach to preserving our Marines, the Corps, and being most ready when the Nation calls.

R. J. SCHMIDT
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer

Battalion SACO (703) 432-1474 or Consolidated Substance Abuse Counseling Center (703) 784-3502