



COMMANDING OFFICER  
HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

POLICY STATEMENT ON  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Alcohol and substance abuse undermines our core values, degrades unit readiness, and negatively impacts the health and well-being of our Marines, Sailors, and their families. Marines and Sailors at all ranks have an obligation to prevent alcohol and substance abuse.

As Swamp Foxes, we are all leaders and must set positive examples; this includes discouraging irresponsible consumption of alcohol and improper use of illegal, prescription, and over-the-counter drugs. Be an involved leader. Be a good friend to your peers. Be an engaged teammate. That's usually all it takes. If that's not enough, I'm empowering you to step up as an intrusive leader - intervene early and intervene often.

Alcohol and drug-related offenses will be dealt with swiftly and effectively. Per MCO 5300.17A, the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the effective performance of Marines and is contrary to the Marine Corps' mission. The primary goal of substance abuse prevention is to enhance mission readiness and protect the health, wellness, and safety of Marines, Sailors, and their families.

Our substance abuse policy is proactive in nature and centered on prevention, not just enforcement. We will advocate no-risk alcohol use, proper use of prescription and over-the-counter medicines, and seek to eliminate illicit drug use through outreach, training, and education. We will also provide referral services and transition assistance for those who violate this order. The use of illegal drugs has an immediate and detrimental effect on unit discipline, safety, and performance. Any individual that violates this order will be processed for administrative separation.

Let's take care of each other and do the right thing.

ANTHONY A. PARKER III

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U.S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING OFFICER