

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
Marine Corps University  
*User's Guide to Marine Corps Values*

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

1. Introduction. The United States Marine Corps will not tolerate the distribution, possession or use of illegal substances.
2. Overview. The purpose of this period of instruction is to introduce the established policies, programs, and punishments involving the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs in the Marine Corps.
3. References. The following provides additional information on Substance Abuse:

MCO P5300.12, The Marine Corps Substance Abuse Program  
NAVMC 2750

4. Discussion Leader Notes. Not applicable.

5. Discussion

- a. Purpose of Preventive Education.

(1) In order to make responsible decisions, leaders must possess knowledge and be thoroughly familiar with the Marine Corps policies concerning drug abuse. MCO P5300.12, Chapter 4, The Marine Corps Substance Abuse Program, and NAVMC 2750 are the basic references that provide information and guidance to commanders. To ensure an effective drug abuse program, leaders must be familiar with these documents, and also must be aware of local commanders' policies on this issue.

(2) Additionally, leaders must be aware of their role in ensuring that all Marines and Sailors in their command are properly educated. An aggressive education program must be pursued at the lowest level to ensure that all Marines and Sailors are kept informed of the physical dangers and serious consequences they will face due to illegal drug use in the Marine Corps.

(3) It is only through a concerned and total leadership effort that we as leaders can help Marines avoid the ramifications of illegal drug use. This effort must encompass all leadership ranks from NCO up.

- b. Leadership Responsibilities.

(1) In light of the current influence that drug use has on society, there is an overwhelming responsibility for leaders to set and instill standards that promote a drug-free environment. Some of the ways that we can encourage this are:

(a) Change existing attitudes about drugs and their use. Your Marines have come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Many of them have lived in environments where drug trafficking and use were a part of everyday life. We must instill in them the belief that the use of drugs is harmful not only to them, but also to the team effort that we as Marines enjoy.

(b) Developing peer pressure amongst your Marines through building a "tight unit" will encourage Marines to avoid drugs -- looking out for one another. This will also prevent outsiders, or newly joined Marines, with drug habits from introducing drugs into your unit.

(c) As leaders, we must also be concerned about the quality of life that is available to Marines. This is particularly true during overseas deployments where Marines are without transportation, family, or the opportunity to pursue their normal interests. Leaders should encourage unit camaraderie by scheduling activities after normal working hours and on weekends to break up the monotony of deployment life and offer an alternative to the temptations of drugs as an escape.

(2) By educating Marines and Sailors about the inherent health risks, as well as the serious consequences that can result if they are caught, we can help them make more informed decisions concerning the use of illegal drugs.

(3) The education process is and must be continuous, both to ensure that new members are fully educated, and to reemphasize to present members the importance of not allowing drugs to affect unit performance and overall safety.

(4) The consequences for use of illegal drugs vary from state to state. Possession amounts in one state may equal distribution amounts in another. The same holds true for foreign countries. Since we can expect to deploy as Marines, we must inform our subordinates of each country's law regarding possession and use of illegal drugs. Laws in Okinawa, for example, are extremely severe, and Marines caught using or distributing drugs are subject to imprisonment in Japanese prisons. This can result in a lengthy trial process and relatively long sentence where the Marine is forced to live without benefit of usual American democratic rights or English speaking prison-mates. It is in the best interest of the Marine

that he is briefed before, and upon arrival in Okinawa, about the harsh punishments above and beyond those that the Marine Corps can impose.

Transition. Now that you have an understanding of prevention through education, let's take a look at the deterrent measures taken by the Marine Corps. The most effective deterrent for those who violate drug policy are the means by which we identify the user or trafficker.

c. Deterrent Measures

(1) Identification Means. Aggressive identification measures offer the single best method of reducing drug abuse in the Marine Corps. Speedy detection prevents escalation of drug use to a point where treatment/rehabilitation is necessary and the Marine becomes a liability to the unit and fellow Marines. There are many methods available to a commander to identify drug users, both within the unit and from external agencies.

(2) Organizations such as the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and local law enforcement agencies work through under-cover operations and investigations to identify distributors and users for arrest and prosecution.

(3) Random inspections of unit areas combined with the use of dogs can deter Marines from retaining drugs in their vehicles or in the barracks.

(4) Perhaps the most effective method is to know your Marines. Generally one can recognize changes in behavior and personality that signal either a personal problem or worse yet, a drug problem. An active and interested leader can do a great deal to prevent young Marines from falling to the temptations that are often present around military bases.

d. Urinalysis Program

(1) Each unit will have a urinalysis program which will be run by the unit's Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO). This position is normally held by a SNCO or NCO. They monitor and schedule urinalysis screenings when requested by the commanding officer and provide counseling and education to unit members.

(2) The purpose of the urinalysis is to deter, identify, and confirm illegal drug use as early as possible. Testing begins at the earliest available time following accession into the Marine Corps. By identifying drug users early, the Marine

Corps can remove them from the Marine Corps before they can influence others.

(3) No person who indicates dependency on drugs will be accessed into the Marine Corps. The following testing enforcement standards have been established to further reduce the possibility of illegal drug users from entering the Corps:

Officer Candidates	30th day
TBS Students	30th day
Recruit	96 Hours

(4) Notice that recruits are tested within the first 96 hours. The rationale is to detect use of such body soluble drugs as cocaine which may be undetectable after 72 hours or less. Samples may be initially tested using a portable test kit.

(5) History. Less than two years ago a second lieutenant tested positive on his screening urinalysis at TBS and was summarily discharged from the Marine Corps. At Second Marines, in Camp Lejeune, two gunnery sergeants who also turned up positive for cocaine suffered the same fate-- this after nearly 18 years of service in the Marine Corps. The urinalysis screening is strictly black and white; you either did or you didn't use drugs. It does not differentiate between rank or experience.

(6) Urinalysis Test Kits can screen for the following illegal substances:

- THC (Cannabis, Marijuana)
- Cocaine
- Amphetamines (Uppers)
- Barbiturates (Downers)
- PCP
- Steroids

(7) The most commonly used drugs are marijuana, cocaine, and steroids. Recently in Camp Lejeune, the drug LSD, or acid, has apparently become popular due to its low cost and the difficulty in detecting it on a urinalysis. Samples must be taken soon after its use, and they must be specifically tested for LSD. Confirmation for legal action, in any case, must be accomplished at a DoD-certified Navy Drug Screening Lab.

Transition. Now that we have seen what the urinalysis program can do, let's move on to the premises of testing our Marines.

e. Testing premises.

(1) Inspections, random screenings, unit sweeps, accession testing, rehabilitation, and facility testing.

(2) Searches and Seizures, command testing, personal consent.

(3) Fitness for Duty, command directed, physician directed, safety, rehabilitation.

(4) Additional reasons, courts martial, personal reliability.

(5) There must be strict compliance with MCO P5300.12, regarding "Chain of Custody." There are two reasons for such strict compliance with this order and the legality of testing premises. They are:

(a) Protection of individual rights (which must be adhered to at all times).

(b) Continued program reliability.

(6) In order to successfully prosecute an individual based upon a urinalysis result, a solid record of the chain of custody must be established without question from the unit SACO to the DoD screening facility. Any questionable violation of procedure can be grounds for acquittal and dismissal of all charges. Defense counsels in all cases of drug abuse will regularly pursue this venue to attempt to discredit urinalysis results.

Transition. Now that the drug violator has been identified, we will punish and separate the individual.

f. Identification, punishment, and separation.

(1) The Marine Corps policy concerning drugs states that, "Distribution, possession, or use of illegal substances is not tolerated." This policy is crystal clear in its meaning and intent, and all commanders should do their utmost to see it enforced.

(2) A Marine identified as a trafficker will be disciplined to the fullest extent possible (remember, however, that what constitutes trafficking varies from state to state). If for some reason punitive discharge is not awarded, the command should administratively separate the offender.

(3) Disciplinary action and processing for separation are appropriate, regardless of rank.

(4) Following separation, all Marines must be provided the address of a local VA Hospital where they will be afforded Level III equivalent rehabilitation treatment.

Transition. Once a drug user has been identified, the following administrative action may be taken, in addition to punitive actions, to discourage drug policy violators.

g. Administrative action.

(1) Denial of base driving privileges.

(2) Eviction from government quarters for married personnel, to include their families.

(3) Unmarried Marines may be forced to move on base into a BEQ.

(4) Page 11, 12 13 entry into SRB as required.

(5) CMC directed/special fitness report (Sergeant and above).

(6) Expeditious discharge.

(7) When preventive education and identification measures fail, the only recourse is to pursue legal action to the fullest extent possible. Any leniency in dealing with drug users sends an improper message to Marines and Sailors in the unit.

Transition. Now that you have a better understanding of the policies, punishments, and programs related to the use of illegal drugs, let's take a look at an equally disturbing trend in the services: alcohol abuse.

h. Alcohol abuse.

(1) Alcohol abuse is any irresponsible use of alcohol that adversely affects individual or unit performance. Consumption alone does not constitute abuse. Alcohol abuse is generally characterized by:

(a) Violent crime.

(b) Auto accidents.

(c) Spouse/child abuse.

- (d) Absenteeism.
- (e) Aggressive behavior.
- (f) Irresponsible acts.

(2) Marine Corps policy on alcohol abuse, as in the case of drug abuse, is one of zero tolerance.

(3) Prevention of alcohol abuse in the Marine Corps is the joint responsibility of both the individual and the supervisor. All officers, SNCOs, and NCOs must become involved. Once identified, the irresponsible drinker must be confronted and appropriate action taken.

(4) Key elements of the leadership effort to eliminate alcohol abuse are:

- (a) Prevention.
- (b) Timely identification.
- (c) Precise documentation.
- (d) Effective treatment.
- (e) Appropriate discipline.
- (f) Restoration to full duty.
- (g) Separation as appropriate.

(5) Enforcement standards are as follows:

- (a) No one assessed with an alcohol need.
- (b) Sub-standard performance, misconduct, and incapacity to perform are not condoned.
- (c) Prompt, appropriate disciplinary action or administrative action will result from alcohol-related acts or misconduct.
- (d) One year revocation of base driving privileges for DWI/DUI.
- (e) Required participation in organized education treatment program.

(f) Refusal to cooperate with treatment is grounds for separation.

(6) The goals of the Marine Corps Alcohol Abuse Program are:

(a) Identification.

(b) Appropriate treatment.

(c) Restoration to full duty.

(7) Prevention and detection measures used are:

(a) Identify abusers.

(b) Health and welfare inspections.

(c) Random vehicle check points.

(d) Unit commanders formally counsel alcohol abusers.

(e) De-glamorize alcohol.

(8) As leaders, the best place to start is by deglamorizing alcohol and minimizing the importance it holds among Marines. Practices which tend to encourage or glamorize the use of alcohol must be avoided.

(9) When throwing parties within your command, provide sodas and other non-alcoholic beverages, as well as beer. Teach and encourage Marines to realize that it is all right not to be heavy drinkers or even to drink at all. Discourage beer chugging contests or slamming down shots of alcohol. Officers and SNCOs should set a good example at these functions by demonstrating responsible consumption of alcohol. Show Marines that they can have a good time without becoming grossly intoxicated. Dispel notions that "hard-drinking" means "hard-charging."

(10) Commanders should also institute policies which support the responsible consumption of alcohol. Such policies may include designated drivers, buddy system on liberty, a responsible limit for officers and SNCOs at command sponsored functions. While on ship's liberty, officers and SNCOs should send Marines and Sailors back to the ship when they are found drinking irresponsibly. Units in Camp Lejeune recently instituted a Cab Chit where drunk Marines and Sailors could produce a laminated chit that would direct a cab to deliver the member to the unit's OOD. The OOD pays the cab out of a unit

fund and the Marine must pay the money back on the following workday.

(11) Alcohol abusers will be held accountable for their actions. Alcohol is never a rationale for inappropriate conduct. Your Marines must understand that once they have consumed a single beer, all of their decisions and actions are alcohol-related. Educate them to choose their drinking environment carefully. Almost all Marine Corps bases regularly screen all drivers coming through gates after a certain hour on weekends. Any slight smell of alcohol on a driver's breath usually results in a trip to the military police station and a ticket for DUI.

Transition. The Corps wants to help Marines with substance abuse problems and aggressively promotes several programs that are effective in rehabilitating alcohol abusers and returning them to their units as productive members.

i. Rehabilitation Programs.

(1) Level I: Unit programs conducted at regiment, group, squadron, separate battalion level, and at barracks.

(a) Unit commanders are responsible for running the program at this level, assisted by the unit SACO. The program provides command counseling, basic alcohol/alcoholism preventive education, discipline, and rudimentary screening for the first-time non-dependent abuser.

(b) Leaders must supervise their Marines' attendance and ask Marines who attend about the caliber of instruction to ensure its effectiveness.

(c) After Level I rudimentary screening, a decision is made as to whether or not the Marine needs additional help. Suspected substance dependent Marines should be sent to Level II for evaluation and follow-on medical diagnosis.

(2) Level II treatment is conducted at division, wing, FSSG, base, station, and depot level. It provides in-depth screening and evaluation for possible alcohol dependency and out-patient, or short term treatment for non-dependent abusers who fail to benefit from Level I or who exceed the capabilities of the Level I program.

(a) Level II. The Marine's treatment is now the responsibility of the commanding general and commanding officers of the command. Once again, attendance must be supervised. Failure to attend will result in a phone call from the CG's staff to your battalion commander, which will almost certainly trickle

downhill to your level. "Training in the field" does not justify non-attendance.

(b) Level II is ordinarily out-patient care not to exceed 14 days or in-patient not to exceed 30 days. Results of the medical evaluation prior to admission may determine a patient's requirement for either in-patient or out-patient care.

(c) Level II treatment consists of an in-depth screening and evaluation for possible substance dependency. If it is determined during the course of treatment at Level II that a dependency exists, the patient will be entered into the Level III program as soon as a bed space becomes available. As openings are limited, it can sometimes be several weeks before a Marine begins treatment.

(3) Level III Navy Residential Treatment Programs are:

(a) Navy Alcohol Rehabilitation Services (ARS).

(b) Navy Rehabilitation Centers (NRC).

(c) Navy Drug Rehabilitation Centers (NDRC).

(4) Upon completion of Level II or Level III, Marines will be entered into a 180 day follow-up program. These follow-up programs consist of:

(a) Commanding officer interview within one week of completion of treatment where the commander will:

[1] Discuss recommendations of treatment facility.

[2] Discuss follow up programs.

[3] Advise Marine of performance and conduct (both expected and at intervals during follow-up program).

(b) Counseling and participation in a follow-up program that will help encourage Marines to avoid alcohol.

(5) Relapse. Relapse is expected, but if during the relapse the Marine violates the UCMJ, he/she will be held accountable for his or her actions. If the Marine makes little attempt to remain alcohol free following treatment, then administrative separation will occur. Leaders should recognize the danger of relapse and show an active interest in the progress of Marines attempting to kick an alcohol habit. This can be

especially difficult considering the prevalence of alcohol around military crowds.

Transition. During this portion of the class, introduce a progressive scenario which allows decisions at various stages of the scenario.

j. You have a Marine by the name of Corporal Hansen. His last proficiency/conduct marks were the highest you recommended in the platoon - 4.9/ 5.0. He is presently serving in a sergeant's billet and seems to possess the knowledge and maturity required for that billet.

(1) You notice in the battalion OOD logbook that he was logged in for arguing with another corporal at the NCO club that resulted in a shoving match. The incident was eventually broken up by the NCO club manager. Corporal Hansen had three beers prior to the incident. Choose one of the following courses of action:

(a) Do nothing. Ignore the situation.

(b) Call in Corporal Hansen and give a verbal counseling.

(c) Call in Corporal Hansen and log in your verbal counseling guidance in your platoon commander notebook.

(d) Produce a written counseling sheet which includes specifics of the incident, consequences of further incidents, and guidance for the future.

(e) Make an administrative entry on page 11 of the Marines' SRB.

(f) Send Corporal Hansen to Level I for evaluation after written counseling.

(2) Two months pass and Corporal Hansen applies for the Marine Security Guard Program, a highly competitive program for Marines to serve in American Embassies and Consulates worldwide.

(a) If you chose A, B, C, or D above, Corporal Hansen will be accepted into the program.

(b) Option E requires a waiver from the Battalion Commander stating that the Marine is highly qualified. You vouch for the Marine's character and explain the page 11 entry.

(c) If you chose option F, Corporal Hansen will be found not eligible for the MSG program based upon Level I treatment.

(3) Three months pass and you have deployed to Okinawa, Japan. After a month on the island, Corporal Hansen gets into a fight with a corporal assigned to the "ville" patrol. Corporal Hansen had eight beers prior to the fight. Make the same choices (A - F) available. Once choice is made, read the following:

(4) Your company commander has referred Corporal Hansen to battalion commander's NJP for fighting. If you chose after the first incident:

(a) A or B, the battalion CO brings you into NJP to ask you about Corporal Hansen's past performance. You bring up the prior incident, however, you are unprepared to provide details.

(b) C, you can provide some detail to the battalion commander.

(c) D or E, you provide exactly the information that the battalion CO needs to determine punishment, but the battalion CO asks why Corporal Hansen wasn't sent to Level I upon the first incident.

(d) F, battalion commander compliments you on sending him to Level I treatment upon the first incident - OR - asks you why you didn't send him upon first incident which was alcohol related.

(5) For those who chose not to send Corporal Hansen to Level I upon first alcohol related incident, the scenario continues. Corporal Hansen was sent to Level II and subsequently to Level III. He was treated for his alcoholism which did not relapse. Corporal Hansen was discharged at the end of his 5 year service contract because he was no longer competitive with the Battalion Commander's NJP on his record.

(6) For those sending Corporal Hansen to Level I immediately: Corporal Hansen was not accepted into the MSG program, but reenlisted after a complete recovery at Level III and continues his stellar performance.

6. Appendices. Not applicable.