



VMFA(AW)-224 Substance Abuse Policy

Bengals do not abuse substances. Substance abuse hurts readiness, and violates our core values.

Be the most ready when the nation is least ready: Abuse of alcohol, illegal drugs, and other substances degrades personal performance and hurts judgment. In the military profession, these things place others at risk, and waste valuable resources. If we are called upon to fight, we need to be at our best. Substance abuse keeps us from being our best.

Brilliance in the Basics: Obey the law. State law requires that individuals be 21 years old or older to consume alcohol. The DUI limit for Blood Alcohol Content in South Carolina is .08%. The use of narcotics, to include marijuana (whether synthetic or not), is illegal, and a violation of the UCMJ. It is also a violation to use prescription drugs when you don't have a prescription. Don't do these things.

Take Care of Each Other: If you plan to go out drinking, have a plan: A designated driver, a taxi cab, an arrive alive card, a hotel room, the phone number for someone in your chain of command, something that ensures that the event doesn't end in tragedy. Stick together; don't let a Marine or Sailor who has had too much to drink go off on their own. That's how bad things happen. Don't let alcohol use turn into abuse; watch each other and speak up if someone has a problem. Don't let our fellow Marines and Sailors be tempted by drugs or other substances, and never tolerate those who sell or distribute such things. There are few things in this world more evil than those who profit from the addiction of another. We must confront them and hold them accountable just as we would any other adversary.

Keep Our Honor Clean: Substance abuse is a serious problem. Addiction is an illness that we must treat and have the commitment to overcome. Those who intentionally expose themselves to this illness, or attempt to spread it, are without honor and have broken faith with our institution.

Reporting/Assistance: Reporting and assistance is available via the chain of command and the unit substance abuse counseling officer.

Reference: MCO 5300.17 (Marine Corps Substance Abuse Program)

Semper Fidelis,

M. P. SHAND,

Commanding Officer, VMFA(AW)-224

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