



**SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY STATEMENT  
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTALION  
FLEET MARINE FORCE, ATLANTIC  
MARINE FORCES COMMAND, MARINE FORCES NORTHERN COMMAND**

Alcohol abuse and the use or distribution of illegal drugs will not be tolerated. The wrongful use of legal but controlled substances not used for their intended purpose is prohibited. Any substance used with the intent of getting high is considered substance abuse. The Marine Corps remains America's premier fighting force because of the contributions of all the men and women who serve. Substance and alcohol abuse degrades our lethality while also destroying lives, families, and careers.

Everyone is important. Education and action are the ways to prevent and eliminate all forms of alcohol and substance abuse. Marines, Sailors, civilians, and families must be armed with the knowledge and tools necessary to eradicate these behaviors. We will do this through aggressive prevention, education, and detection efforts.

If you or someone you know is abusing drugs or alcohol, seek help immediately. We have leaders, counselors, and medical professionals ready to help. I promise that you will be treated with dignity and respect. Don't wait until after a DUI, positive urinalysis report, or some other legal incident to disclose your struggles.

Anyone involved in a drug or alcohol-related incident will be referred to the Substance Abuse Control Officer, screened, counseled, and, if needed, sent for a medical evaluation. Those diagnosed as drug or alcohol dependent will be assigned to an appropriate treatment program.

The safety, health and welfare of everyone in this command, to include our families, is vital to the mission. Only through training, engaged leadership, and constant vigilance can we combat substance and alcohol abuse. Join me in this fight!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. M. Hermès'.

**G. M. HERMÈS  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps**