



**FLEET MARINE FORCE, ATLANTIC, MARINE FORCES COMMAND,
MARINE FORCES NORTHERN COMMAND
ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY STATEMENT**

The vast majority of you are responsible in every aspect of your conduct. Unfortunately there is a minority of those in this command not meeting this standard of conduct. Alcohol abuse and substance abuse degrade the effective performance of Marines and Sailors, and both are a detriment to our combat readiness. Substance misuse and abuse destroys the health of our Marines and Sailors, their careers, and impacts their families. As Marines and Sailors we are professionals and are responsible for our actions and will be held accountable when we fail to meet standards. Those who tolerate alcohol abuse or substance abuse in others by failing to be engaged leaders have failed their unit, their family, and

their fellow Marines and Sailors.

Marines and Sailors will not engage in, or tolerate in others, the possession, use, trafficking, or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia. We have zero tolerance for this behavior. Substance abuse not only includes illegal drugs, but any drug not used for its intended purpose or used in excess. Any substances used for the intent of getting high also constitute substance abuse. We work daily in a hazardous environment. Drug and alcohol abuse reduces our ability to think clearly, assess risks, and act and react properly. This puts everyone in danger and will not be tolerated.

We will take care of our fellow Marines and Sailors through intervention and timely identification. Anyone deemed to have experienced a detrimental drug or alcohol incident will be referred to the Substance Abuse Control Officer, screened, counseled, and, if needed, rehabilitated through the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP). If diagnosed as drug or alcohol dependent, they will be afforded the appropriate treatment. Per Marine Corps Order, all cases of illegal drug use will be processed for administrative separation.

We must ensure that every member of this command is committed to preventing, and if necessary, eradicating substance abuse. Leaders at all levels shall use all available resources to eliminate substance abuse, first and foremost being engaged, involved leadership. We will take preemptive action through strict compliance with the Drug Demand Reduction Program, provide necessary training, and execute mentorship, counseling, and constant vigilance. Failure to do so exposes us to potential loss of life, degradation of our most precious asset-our people, risk of damage to valuable equipment, degraded readiness, and the inability to complete our mission. **Protect what you've earned and remain Semper Fidelis!**

M. E. LANGLEY

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