



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

The Marine Corps has a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy for illegal drug use.

A Marine under the influence of drugs or alcohol is a detriment to good order and discipline and a potentially lethal hazard to others on the battlefield, in the workspace, on liberty, or behind the wheel of a vehicle.

MCO 5300.17A is the Substance Abuse Program. The primary purpose of substance misuse prevention is to enhance mission readiness and the overall health, wellness, and safety of Marines and their family members. Every Marine and Sailor will read and comply with this order.

Marines and Sailors will not engage in, or tolerate in others, the possession, use, trafficking, or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia. Substance abuse is not limited to the use of illegal drugs. Alcohol, prescription medications, and over the counter drugs can be just as dangerous as illegal drugs when they are used in excess and abused in ways not consistent with their intended purpose. Drug and alcohol abuse reduces our ability to think clearly, assess risks, and act and react properly.

It is imperative that we take care of each other 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 substance abuse. Leaders at all levels shall use all available resources to eliminate substance abuse through engaged and 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, degraded readiness, and the inability to complete our mission.

**"Marines take care of Marines." I need your help to ensure this has meaning.**

B. W. CAVANAUGH  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic  
Commander, Marine Forces Command  
Commander, Marine Forces Northern Command