

COMMANDING OFFICER'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY



Substance abuse is a nationwide issue found in all sectors of our society. We hold ourselves to a higher standard, demanding the best of our fellow Marines and Sailors. Each of us is charged with upholding the high standards of the United States Marine Corps and Navy; anything other than this will not be tolerated.

Substance abuse affects morale and unit cohesion, and degrades performance, effectiveness, and unit readiness. Substance abuse destroys the health of personnel, their careers, and eventually, their families. It is contrary to our Core Values, and the actions of substance abusers can result in serious injury to civilians, members of this squadron, themselves, or damage to equipment.

Substance abuse is not limited to the use of illegal drugs. Prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs, and alcohol are just as dangerous when used in ways not consistent with their intended purpose. Those that choose to abuse drugs or alcohol rarely do so alone. In many cases, peers know of the abuse and decide to do nothing. Those who tolerate substance abuse in others and do nothing are culpable! Have the moral courage and intestinal fortitude to address this issue head on. Intervene and get help for those in need, or seek help yourself. Consider the right choices to be a career decision and a life-saving skill.

If you are concerned about someone you believe to have a substance abuse problem, ask for help through your medical officer, addiction counselor, or squadron Substance Abuse Control Officer (SACO) at 466-3463. There are a variety of programs available to help all of our Marines, Sailors, and families, regardless if they are physically located on MCAS Cherry Point, on deployment, traveling or on TAD. The squadron SACO can provide anyone who needs it the help to keep alcohol and/or other substances from destroying lives.

Our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment enable our success whether in garrison, on deployment, or on liberty. Honor your service by staying drug free and not abusing alcohol. Have the courage to intervene to prevent someone from making a life-changing decision. Every Dragon is essential to this command and critical to our mission success. Degrading our readiness and combat effectiveness due to unprofessional behavior of abusing drugs or alcohol is not acceptable. Possess the commitment to a lifestyle that will promote your best performance.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. A. Petersen', written over a faint background of the United States flag.

R. A. PETERSEN

Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer,
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14