



Commanding Officer's Policy on Substance Abuse

The purpose of this policy is to maintain our combat readiness through prevention and treatment of substance abuse. Substance abuse inhibits the ability of Marines and Sailors to effectively perform their duties, places lives at risk, undermines good order and discipline, degrades the health of our Marines and Sailors, and destroys families. Substance abuse will not be tolerated.

Marine Corps Order 5300.17 prohibits alcohol abuse and the manufacture, distribution, trafficking, possession and use/wrongful use of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, controlled substance analogues and designer drugs. This Order further prohibits the use of natural substances, chemicals, propellants, prescribed drugs, over-the-counter drugs and pharmaceutical compounds with the intent to introduce intoxication, excitement or stupefaction of one's central nervous system or that of another.

As I have previously stated, the purpose of this battalion is success in combat, and a shared trust is critical to this success. Substance abuse betrays the fundamental trust we have placed in all Marines and Sailors to do what is right. Similarly, failing to provide Marines, Sailors and their families the help they need to address problems contributing to and/or resulting from substance abuse is also a betrayal of trust.

Consistent with this policy, we will: (1) educate everyone on the effects of substance abuse and conduct random urinalysis testing to assist them in making responsible decisions; (2) hold those accountable that violate this policy; (3) train leaders to identify the indications and warnings of substance abuse; and (4) arrange treatment for those in need.

This is a leadership issue, and I expect leaders to lead.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl E. Cooper, Jr.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carl E. Cooper, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding