

COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The individuals within Security Battalion are our most precious asset. We all have a responsibility to do the right thing on and off-duty. Substance abuse is not only harmful to individuals, but is detrimental to the success of the Battalion. Substance abuse degrades our readiness and effectiveness by exposing members of our Battalion to unnecessary risk, which negatively impacts mission accomplishment.



Marine Corps Order 5300.17 (Marine Corps Substance Abuse Program) is one of the primary regulations that governs the use and control of alcohol, illegal drugs, the illegal use of prescription drugs, and possession of drug paraphernalia. This order defines substance abuse as "the excessive use of or dependency on alcohol or any non-prescribed use of drugs." Alcohol abuse and the distribution, possession, or use of illegal drugs, is contrary to the effective performance of every Marine, Firefighter, Police Officer, and our essential support personnel. Prescription medications, over the counter drugs, and synthetic replacements can be just as dangerous as illegal drugs when used in excess or not used as prescribed. Drug and alcohol abuse can reduce a person's capacity to think clearly and hinder their ability to safely perform their assigned duties. **Alcohol abuse and unlawful drug use are strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.** Any individual that violates the applicable regulations will be held accountable and appropriately punished.

Leaders at every level must be aware of the indicators of alcohol and drug abuse. All service members are responsible for reporting any incidents relating to the abuse of legal or illegal substances. I expect each individual within our command to become involved and to take immediate action if he or she identifies a member of our Battalion with a substance abuse problem. We must take care of each other, even when it's the unpopular course of action.

Individuals seeking help for any substance abuse problem are encouraged to use their chain of command for assistance. Personnel identified as having a substance abuse problem will be provided with an appropriate screening and given proper treatment in a timely manner through the Consolidated Substance Abuse Counseling Center.

Never do anything that will jeopardize yourself, your career, or the reputation of the Marine Corps. Hold yourself, your subordinates, and your peers accountable. Most importantly look out for each other and always do the right thing. The success and welfare of everyone at Security Battalion is my top priority. We cannot allow alcohol or drug abuse to negatively impact the personnel within our ranks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. T. Schnakenberg".

M. T. SCHNAKENBERG
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Security Battalion