



SUBSTANCE ABUSE ***Commanding Officer's Policy Statement***

Alcohol abuse and the distribution, possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia is contrary to the safe and effective performance of MATSG-21 Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines. These activities will not be tolerated. Alcohol and drug offenses will be dealt with swiftly, and can potentially result in separation from service. MATSG-21 prevention education and training is designed to enhance mission readiness and provide members knowledge of the effects of alcohol and drug abuse, and to assist all in making responsible decisions. We must always be mindful of the environments in which we live and operate, and how irresponsible decisions can have immediate strategic implications—Protect What You've Earned.

How does this impact your ability to complete your mission?

The very nature of our mission here at MATSG requires highly skilled and focused warriors working with mechanically and technologically complex machines and systems to complete training and move on to the Operating forces to provide the combat power for the Marine Corps. The abuse of drugs or alcohol will affect your ability to complete this training and could impact your life and career in other ways such as legal issues, financial problems, injuries, and even death. Working under the influence of drugs or alcohol reduces your effectiveness, impairs your ability to concentrate and make sound decision, and could put lives at risk.

What do I want you to do?

1. Know that you have a responsibility to combat drug and alcohol abuse; know the warning signs, step in to prevent abuse or misuse, and help fellow Marines and Sailors who may have a problem to get assistance.
2. Receive Substance Abuse prevention awareness education and training at least annually.
3. If you drink, DRINK RESPONSIBLY. Understand consumption of alcohol is not essential or equal to Marine Corps pride, and that alcohol abuse constitutes unacceptable behavior.
4. Create an environment where Marines and Sailors know that it's okay to not drink.
5. Understand that possession or consumption of alcohol while under the age of 21 is prohibited. Selling or providing alcohol to anyone under the minimum drinking age is prohibited.

Reference: MCO 5300.17, Marine Corps Substance Abuse Program, MCO 1700.22G, Alcoholic Beverage Control in the Marine Corps

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M H Johnson".

M. H. JOHNSON
Commanding Officer, MATSG-21