



# Alcohol and Substance Abuse Policy Statement



My policy on substance abuse is no different than the Marine Corps' and is aligned with my command philosophy. Alcohol and substance abuse directly threatens our ability to meet the demands of our service, endangers the well-being of individuals, and undermines our core values of honor, courage, and commitment. This policy serves to reinforce the importance of discipline, respect, and initiative in maintaining a healthy, mission-ready force.

## 1. Accomplish the Mission with Discipline:

Our primary duty as Marines and Sailors is to accomplish the mission, and we cannot achieve success if we are impaired by alcohol or substance abuse. Marines and Sailors must remain fit for duty and ready to respond to our nation's call on short notice. This requires self-discipline, personal accountability, and the commitment to making responsible decisions that enhance our readiness and effectiveness. The mission's success depends on every teammate's ability to perform at their best, and substance abuse compromises that.

The Marine Corps' policy of **ZERO TOLERANCE** for substance abuse will be enforced. Any Marine or Sailor who is found to be impaired on duty or engaging in substance abuse will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including separation from the naval service.

## 2. Take Care of Our People with Respect:

Our people are our most valuable asset. The health and well-being of each individual is vital to the success of the unit. Alcohol and substance abuse doesn't just harm the individual; it affects the entire team. We are committed to fostering a culture of support and respect, where all members feel empowered to seek help and are treated with dignity when they do.

Leaders will provide appropriate resources for substance abuse prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation. Every Marine and Sailor will be given the opportunity to receive help without fear of retribution and will be supported in their journey to recovery. Marines and Sailors are encouraged to reach out to trusted leaders, peers, or available support services for guidance and assistance before it impacts their professional and personal performance.

## 3. Improve Our Position with Initiative:

We will proactively take measures to prevent alcohol and substance abuse by providing education, training, and awareness programs to ensure every member understands the dangers and consequences of abuse. Teammates who demonstrate initiative in addressing substance abuse issues—either in themselves or their peers—will be commended for their actions. We each have a responsibility to be vigilant, proactive, and to ensure we maintain a drug- and alcohol abuse-free environment.

Alcohol and substance abuse is incompatible with the high standards of excellence required of every member. Together, we will uphold our values, support each other, and continue to improve, both individually and as a Battalion.

Semper Fidelis,

R. E. THOMAS III

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding