

IRONHORSE SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Substance abuse is the wrongful use of any drug, both legal and illegal, which has an adverse effect on you, your ability to function, our readiness, and our welfare. Substance abuse runs counter to my number one priority – readiness.

Alcohol, smoking, vaping, supplements and any ingested, inhaled, or injected material has an impact on your ability to function. The Marine Corps has a zero tolerance policy towards illegal drug use. It violates the trust we have in one another and is contrary to our Marine ethos. Similarly, excessive alcohol use and the misuse of prescription medications has a detrimental effect on mission accomplishment. It is my goal to ensure that substance abuse in HMH-461 is eliminated and does not pose a threat to the accomplishment of our vital mission.

To that end, we have a zero tolerance policy for illegal drug use – including the abuse of prescription or over the counter medications. You should only consume medication approved by a competent medical authority and IAW with directed guidelines. Additionally, no Marine or Sailor under the age of 21 will be permitted to consume any unauthorized alcoholic beverage. Marines of legal age are expected to consume alcohol responsibly. Irresponsible drinking leads to poor decision making; decisions that put us all at risk and harm the unit's reputation for professionalism and an adherence to our Corps' values.

Responsible drinking includes having a mitigation plan; a plan to drink only in moderation and knowing the signs of when you and your fellow Marines and Sailors have consumed too much. Ultimately, the best mitigation for these actions is to simply have a plan – plan to limit your total alcohol intake, plan for your transportation, plan for a sober battle-buddy, and then execute that plan! There are myriad options available to help you drink responsibly – including our SACO, Arrive Alive program, Uber, Lyft, taxis, the duty officer (if necessary), and your chain of command. Simply put – have a plan, there is no reason why you should drive after consuming alcohol!

As part of our effort to eliminate substance abuse, our command will execute a robust testing plan for all personnel and subordinate personnel – at home and deployed. All personnel will be tested IAW Marine Corps policy and every member of the unit will be tested within 72 hours after returning from leave in excess of seven days, PCS, or upon occasion of being UA. You are responsible for your actions, including what you ingest, inhale, or inject into your body. Those who fail to uphold our standards, who use illegal drugs, or abuse prescription drugs will be held accountable using formal counseling, judicial, or non-judicial punishment.

Semper Fidelis,



A. A. Horne