

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
15TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT
UNIT 42530
FPO AP 96610-2530

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22 JUL 10

POLICY LETTER 9-10

From: Commanding Officer, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit
To: Distribution List

Subj: POLICY ON USE, POSSESSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF INTOXICANTS,
STUPEFYING AND MENTAL-STATE ALTERING AGENTS

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 5300.28D, MILITARY SUBSTANCE ABUSE
(b) MCO P1900.16F MARCORSEPMAN
(c) MANUAL FOR COURTS-MARTIAL, 2008 ED.
(d) MARFORPACO 5355.2 01 DEC 2009 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES
(e) CENTCOM GO #1 MAR 13 2006
(f) U.S. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT OF 1970

1. Purpose. To promulgate the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) policy on abuse of intoxicants other than tobacco and alcohol. It is the goal of 15th MEU to be free from the effects of alcohol and drug abuse; the illegal possession of and/or the trafficking of drugs by 15th MEU personnel; and the wrongful possession, use, distribution, or promotion of drugs or drug paraphernalia.

2. Basis. A wave of designer drugs and mind/mood altering substances has been introduced to the market, often sold as 'herbal' or 'incense' products. These products frequently have little or no screening by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and may be unsafe or have unintended effects on the user. Furthermore, use of these products with the intent to induce intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the central nervous system is in violation of reference (a) and can be the basis for disciplinary or administrative action under references (b) and (c). The use and possession of some of these products, including Spice and Salvia, are already prohibited by reference (d) but remain commercially available. In addition to the prohibitions in the references, this policy letter is to clarify products prohibited for 15th MEU personnel use, possession, distribution or introduction to PEL/ARG shipping and military installations.

3. Applicability. This policy applies to all 15th MEU personnel, to include all Marine and Navy personnel, MSEs, all attachments and detachments, and all military ship riders supporting the 15th MEU (hereinafter 15th MEU personnel).

4. Punitive Nature. This policy is punitive in nature. Failure to comply with the policy contained in this instruction may result in administrative and/or punitive action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

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5. Policy

a. Intoxicants, Stupefying and Mental-State Altering Agents, Related Paraphernalia and Unlabeled Products.

(1) The use, possession, distribution and introduction to PEL/ARG shipping or military facilities of all controlled substances listed in the references is prohibited.

(2) The use, possession, distribution and introduction to PEL/ARG shipping or military facilities of: controlled substance analogues (designer drugs), natural substances, herbal products, incense, chemicals, propellants, and/or a prescribed or over-the-counter drug or pharmaceutical compound, with the intent to induce intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the central nervous system is prohibited.

(3) Tobacco and products available outside NEX facilities in the PACOM and CENTCOM AOR are not subject to FDA inspection for product safety. Furthermore, loose or unpackaged tobacco may strongly resemble prohibited herbal products and controlled substance analogues. Use of tobacco products purchased or acquired outside NEX facilities is subject to the following limitations:

(a) Only tobacco products clearly labeled as such by the manufacturer and sealed at the time of purchase may be used, possessed and transported onto a military installation or naval vessel.

(b) Loose tobacco and/or unlabeled tobacco products and related products (including rolling paper, tobacco flavoring or additives of any variety) may not be introduced onto or possessed on a military installation or naval vessel.

(c) Drug paraphernalia includes any equipment, product, or material that is created, modified or intended for making, using, or concealing illegal drugs and controlled substances. The use and possession of drug paraphernalia is prohibited by references (a)-(c). Cultural smoking devices, to include hookas and water pipes will be considered drug paraphernalia and may not be possessed or introduced to any military installations or naval vessels.

(4) Per reference (e), prescription drugs must be accompanied by the original prescription label which identifies the user as well as the prescribing medical facility or authority.

(5) Khat is a narcotic plant produced in the HOA region. It is commonly found in the form of green leaves and stems that are chewed for an amphetamine-like narcotic effect. The active ingredients in khat are listed as Controlled Substances by references (a) and (f).

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The use, possession, distribution or introduction of khat is prohibited and will be the subject of disciplinary action and mandatory processing for administrative separation.

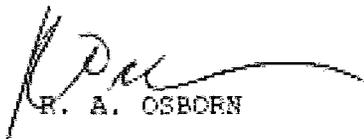
e. Additional policy. This policy incorporates by reference the policy and definitions in reference (a) through (f).

6. Responsibility. Leaders throughout the chain of command will:

a. Ensure all members of the command are aware of the policies and prohibitions set forth herein.

b. Address offending conduct by taking immediate and appropriate action, to include counseling, issuing non-punitive letters of caution, comments on fitness reports, reassignment, and if necessary, appropriate punitive and administrative action per references (b) and (c).

7. Questions regarding this policy will be directed to the Staff Judge Advocate, 15th MEU.



R. A. OSBORN

Distribution: A
Copy to: COMPHIBRON 3