



COMMANDING OFFICER, MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 171

STATEMENT ON ALCOHOL ABUSE

We must take aggressive measures to reduce the problems which inevitably result from alcohol abuse: the death or injury of squadron members, and their family members; incidents of misconduct; decreased effectiveness of individuals and impairment of health and fitness throughout the squadron. Alcohol and substance abuse are contrary to our motto "ready for all things."



Leaders -- encourage Squadron members to adopt healthy lifestyles and discourage them from doing things that are unhealthy -- the irresponsible use of alcohol is unhealthy. Everyone realizes that alcohol and substance abuse causes problems. Yet abuse continues. Education and training programs exist for all; use them! Treatment programs are in place for those who need help; use them in time!

I want all leaders to look for ways to overcome abuse and determine ways to deglamorize the use of alcohol. We need a cultural change that must result in decreased alcohol use. That doesn't mean a change in Marine Corps tradition. **Any perception that alcohol is central to our traditions is wrong.** The harm that alcohol abuse causes is an issue basic to our ethos of taking care of our own. We must keep this fact clearly in our sights.

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