



SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS

MEMORANDUM



3 November 2010

SMMC MEMO 03-10

1. Passage of Command: On October 22, General Conway passed command of our beloved Corps to General Amos. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank General & Mrs. Conway for everything they've done for our Corps. They're a great team, and they always did what they felt was best for our Marines, Sailors, and our families.

While General and Mrs. Conway will be missed, General and Mrs. Amos will pick right up where they left off and will take our Corps to the next level. They are also a great team that puts the needs of Marines, Sailors, and families up front, and will do great things for our Corps.

2. 35th Commandant's Planning Guidance: General Amos recently released his Planning Guidance. Some of the highlights are listed below, but more details can be found in the Planning Guidance, which can be found at the Marine Corps homepage, www.Marines.mil.

- We will continue to provide the best trained and equipped Marine units to Afghanistan. This will not change. This remains our top priority!
- We will rebalance our Corps, posture it for the future and aggressively experiment with and implement new capabilities and organizations.
- We will better educate and train our Marines to succeed in distributed operations and increasingly complex environments.
- We will keep faith with our Marines, our Sailors, and our families.

It is very important that we push the Planning Guidance out to all Marines, Sailors, and our families, so they will know our Commandant's Priorities and the way forward.

3. Abusing Substances to Get High: There has been a lot of media attention lately on the use of legal substances that when consumed, can create a "high." Some of these substances include: "Spice," synthetic cannabis; "Morning Glory," seeds of a flowering plant family that gives hallucinogenic affects; "Jimson Weed," another hallucinogenic that comes from the Datura flowering plant; and "Diviner's Sage," which comes from the psychoactive plant *salvia divinorum*. Many of these substances can legally be sold online, in various stores, and even in gas stations.

Some Marines and Sailors may be under the impression that since these substances are legal to purchase, they are legal to consume in order to alter their state of mind. This can't be farther from the truth! Marines who use any of the substances will be held accountable.

There is no room in the Marine Corps for the use of substances to get "high," and the leadership will not tolerate such actions. Abusing these

products goes against SECNAVINST 5300.28D, Military Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, and those who use these substances will be charged under Article 92, and/or Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

This is another issue that NCOs must be engaged in and address head on. They must ensure Marines know these substances can be harmful, and they go against good order and discipline.

MARADMIN 579/10 was recently issued and addresses this issue. I ask that this word get pushed out through PME and formations.

4. Happy Birthday, Marines: My wife, Liz, and I would like to end this Memo by wishing all Marines and their families a Happy Birthday. It was 235 years ago that two battalions of Continental Marines were formed, and we've been winning battles ever since. Whether you're forward deployed, stateside, or outside the Continental United States, we hope you have an enjoyable and safe birthday.

As you celebrate and share a night of camaraderie at a Birthday Ball, remember those who have gone before us - those who bravely faced the enemy of their time, and left us the great warfighting legacy we continue to live up to. Rightfully be proud of your willingness to serve and defend your country in a time of war. The United States Marine Corps is the world's finest fighting force, and it's not because of our weapons or gear, it's because of Warriors such as yourself. We wouldn't be who we are without the heart and determination, and pride and spirit of all our Marines. You are continuing the Marine Corps legacy with a Warrior mentality and indomitable spirit.

Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis,



CARLTON W. KENT

16th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps