



OFFICE OF THE
BRIGADE COMMANDER

UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

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5 March 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE USU BRIGADE

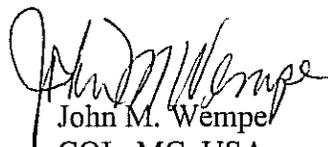
SUBJECT: Brigade Commander's Policy Statement on Alcohol Abuse

Regrettably, the effects of alcohol abuse continue to plague our society in general and our military community in particular. This problem leaves thousands of victims with incalculable physical and emotional misery and needlessly derails promising careers. This dual tragedy is entirely preventable yet is a natural consequence stemming from irresponsible alcohol consumption. This policy statement should not be confused as an "anti-alcohol" message, but rather, a reflection of two crystal-clear facts: if you're going to consume alcohol, it had better be done (1) lawfully and (2) conducted in a responsible manner. In other words, the vast majority of our personnel exercise sound judgment. Tragically, however, some folks "don't get it" and consequently, their reckless actions imperil themselves and others. In short, the professional and personal growth of Brigade personnel is critically important to me—do not allow the misuse of alcohol to thwart your professional success or worse, bring harm to yourself or others.

In those instances where someone is accused of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) or Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), this situation becomes a matter of official command interest. Accordingly, you can be assured that the full breadth of command prerogatives will be brought to bear on the situation. To be sure, acts which evidence discreditable involvement with civil and/or military authorities will be fully investigated. When situations arise which prompt medical care, or in matters which involve a suspicious public or domestic disturbance, these matters will be thoroughly evaluated to determine if alcohol was a contributing factor.

You will note that the Navy Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program (DAPA), the Air Force Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) program and the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP), [OPNAV Instruction 5350.4C, AFI 44-121 and AR 600-85, respectively] are designed to simultaneously promote military readiness as well as maintain the overall health and wellness of our personnel. Simply put, awareness of alcohol abuse/misuse will minimize the negative consequences to the individual, family, and ultimately one's organization. For additional information on these programs, please contact HM1 Joe Monsivais, Brigade DAPA Coordinator at (301) 295-1479.

Each of us must be proactive in the prevention and elimination of alcohol-related incidents. If you have questions or concerns regarding anything contained in this policy statement, I urge you to speak with your immediate supervisor, the Senior Enlisted Leader, or bring the matter directly to my attention. Bottom line, let's all be smart—when it comes to alcohol consumption your career and physical safety are much too important to place at risk.


John M. Wempe
COL, MC, USA
Brigade Commander

Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way