



COMMANDING OFFICER'S
2D ASSAULT AMPHIBIAN BN
STATEMENT ON
SUBSTANCE ABUSE



The physical and mental health of every member of the "First Wave" family plays a vital role to the overall readiness of the battalion. Substance abuse – whether the abuse of alcohol or illegal substances – undermines the priorities of this command primarily through the loss of critical manpower. Marines and Sailors who cannot focus clearly on their daily duties on the ramp or in the field due to substance abuse are lost to us, presenting a significant hazard – we, and those we are tasked to support, count on every member of the command to be ready to accomplish the mission and consciously manage and mitigate operational risk. Substance abuse cannot, and will not, be tolerated.

Combating substance abuse requires our entire family to be involved. Ensuring the welfare and safety of the members of this command includes enforcing standards and helping those who are headed for potential trouble, even when they may not want to help themselves. Failure to identify the problem and take action can allow a seam to open within a unit – tearing at cohesion and enabling substance abuse to take hold and potentially spread due to perceived acceptance within the barracks, your neighborhood, etc. In each case, there is likely a root cause that must be found out and steps taken to eliminate the conditions that enable the abuse. Leadership is critical at all levels to preventing substance abuse – but like many things within our family, this rests on the shoulders of our Non-Commissioned Officers. They have the best situational awareness and ability to spot, address, and eliminate any substance abuse issues that may arise within the "First Wave." In conjunction, we will continue to run the most effective Command Substance Abuse Prevention Program we can – conducting unit testing and providing our Marines and Sailors access to counseling and other external resources to help those that require assistance.

Members of the "First Wave" are men and women of character – quiet professionals who are expected to strive toward exemplary and ethical behavior, both on and off duty. We cannot accept substance abuse within our family – we need each and every Marine and Sailor on the job, focused and thinking clearly, to conduct our mission effectively. Contact our unit Substance Abuse Control Officer (910) 440-7112 for additional information, to receive help, or to get help for others.

Semper Fidelis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. W. Baas", with the name "GATOR 6" written below it.

D. W. BAAS