



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST-MARINE CORPS BASE  
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CG  
OCT 30 2019

COMMANDING GENERAL'S POLICY LETTER 016-19

From: Commanding General  
To: Distribution List

Subj: POLICY ON THE POSSESSION OF HEMP PRODUCTS ON MARINE CORPS  
INSTALLATIONS EAST (MCIEAST) INSTALLATIONS AND FACILITIES

Ref: (a) ALNAV 057/19  
(b) SECNAVINST 5300.28F, "Military Substance Abuse Prevention  
and Control," April 23, 2019  
(c) 21 U.S.C. §802(16), Definitions  
(d) 7 U.S.C. §16390, Definitions  
(e) Uniform Code of Military Justice

1. Purpose. Per references (a) and (b), active duty Marines and Sailors are prohibited from ingesting hemp products regardless of whether they were purchased legally outside of a military installation. This policy will further prohibit the knowing possession of all hemp based products delineated in reference (a) on all MCIEAST installations or facilities.

2. Background. On December 20, 2018, the President signed into law the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, removing industrial hemp from the Controlled Substances Act (reference (c)) and excluding from the definition of marijuana those hemp products containing up to 0.3 percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) on a dry weight basis. THC in marijuana and in those hemp products containing more than 0.3 percent THC remain illegal per the Controlled Substances Act. Since the change in law, poorly regulated products containing THC gained popularity within the United States market and became a health and safety risk to our military personnel. In an attempt to address these concerns, the release of reference (a) prohibited the consumption of all hemp products by Marines and Sailors. In order to maintain good order and discipline and clearly reiterate the importance of the prohibitions contained within reference (a), the possession of hemp-based substances will hereby be prohibited on all MCIEAST installations and facilities.

3. Policy

a. Effective immediately, all military and civilian personnel and visitors to MCIEAST installations and facilities are prohibited from possessing while at those locations:

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(1) Any substance used for the ingestion (orally, intravenously, through smoking/vaporization, or through other means) of hemp;

(2) All products made or derived from hemp as defined in reference (d), including cannabidiol (CBD), regardless of the products THC concentration, claimed or actual, and regardless of whether such product may lawfully be bought, sold, and used under the law applicable to civilians; and,

(3) CBD formulations approved as drugs by the Food and Drug Administration for which the individual has a valid prescription, such as dronabinol (Marinol, Syndros) and CBD (Epidiolex).<sup>1</sup>

b. This prohibition does not apply to the possession of topical products such as shampoos, conditioners, lotions, or soaps.

c. Knowing violations of this Policy Letter are a violation of reference (e), Article 92, Failure to Obey a Lawful General Order, and any other article that may apply, and may subject both military and civilian personnel to the suspension or revocation of security clearances, installation driving privileges, installation access, and other disciplinary measures.

4. Action. The safety of our installations and our commitment to a drug free work environment must be safe guarded. This Policy Letter applies to any individual granted access to MCIEAST installations and facilities.

  
J. D. ALFORD

DISTRIBUTION: A/B/C

<sup>1</sup> However, possession of these FDA-approved drugs by an active duty Service Member who is a resident aboard one of the MCIEAST Installations, and who possesses a valid prescription issued by the Service Member's assigned Department of Defense (DoD) approved medical service provider (or DoD-approved civilian medical professional) whose care the Service Member was referred to or directed to seek, shall be authorized.