

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Spice Ban and Interim Procedure for Spice Testing

1. Purpose: To provide background information on synthetic cannabinoids (spice) and analogues/homologues and the Army's interim procedure for the Special Drug Test Requests for Spice Testing. **This information does NOT apply to other Special Drug Test Requests.**

2. Prohibited Substances Policy:

a. The Secretary of the Army issued a memo titled *Prohibited Substances (Spice in Variations)* on 10 Feb 2011 prohibiting personnel of Active Army, the Army National Guard of the United States when in Title 10 status, and the U.S. Army Reserve from, without proper authorization, using, possessing, manufacturing, selling, distributing, importing into or exporting from the United States, or introducing into any installation, vessel, vehicle, or aircraft used by or under the control of the Army: Any controlled substance analogue or homologue such as "Spice" or similar substances containing synthetic cannabis, any THC substitute, or any synthetic cannabinoid. This policy is punitive and violations of the provisions of this policy may result in punitive actions against Service members.

b. On 1 Mar 2011, the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued the final order to temporarily place five synthetic cannabinoids into the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) pursuant to the temporary scheduling provisions. This action placed five of these synthetic cannabinoids into Schedule I of the CSA to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety. As a result of this order, the full effect of the CSA and its implementing regulations including criminal, civil and administrative penalties, sanctions and regulatory controls of Schedule I substances will be imposed on the manufacture, distribution, possession, importation, and exportation of these synthetic cannabinoids. The substances are JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200, CP-47,497, and cannabicyclohexanol (CP-47,497 C8 homologue).

3. Recommended Command considerations for dealing with Spice:

a. Frequent random testing along with health and welfare inspections is the best strategy to deter drug use. Based on the Secretary of the Army Policy Letter dated 10 Feb 2011, there would be no reason to test a Soldier if found possessing/using Spice. The commander should be informed of this policy and work with supporting SJA to pursue UCJM procedure if appropriate.

b. Currently, spice testing is not available as a routine test or probable cause testing for Soldiers. Only CID can request a spice test as part of an active investigation.

4. Spice Testing Procedure by CID:

a. CID can order a Spice test if applicable for the commander as a piece of forensic evidence through the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. The Commander should contact CID to determine if evidence exists to open an investigation. The sample should be collected without delay under Chain of Custody using AFMES Toxicological Request Form 1323 and should be submitted with the accompanying case ID number assigned by CID.

b. This form may be found at <http://www.acsap/army.mil> [Click UPL Page > Drug Testing > Special Tests]. The CID case file must be listed on the AFMES Form 1323.

c. Collect the urine sample, as soon as possible, as per CID instructions. The metabolites found in the urine sample indicating Spice use are very delicate and may be degraded if delayed. Urine specimens submitted for Spice testing will ONLY be tested for spice substances.

d. CID will have to process the specimen for testing like any other piece of evidence and ship it to:

~~DIVISION OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY
ARMED FORCES MEDICAL EXAMINER SYSTEM
1413 RESEARCH BLVD., BLDG. 102
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850.
Phone: (301) 319-0100 (DSN 312-285-0100)~~

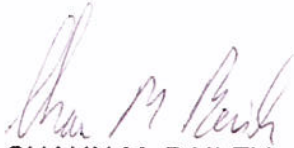
**EFFECTIVE 31 JANUARY 2012
NEW LAB ADDRESS:**

Armed Forces Medical Examiner System
ATTN: Division of Forensic Toxicology
Building 115 Purple Heart Drive
Dover Air Force Base, DE 19902

5. Results will be reported from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) to the commander.

6. Point of contact for this Information Paper is the Chief, Drug Testing Branch at (502) 613-9649 (DSN 983-9649) or e-mail: Biochem@conus.army.mil.

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SHAUN M. BAILEY
LTC, MS
Chief, Drug Testing Policy