



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Deterring Designer Drug Use

"Unplanned losses negatively affect commands' operational and warfighter readiness. It's every Sailor's responsibility to deter drug abuse. The Navy's policy is simple and clear: zero tolerance."

– Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/SW) Rick West

The Navy's zero tolerance policy for drug abuse includes possession of substances or designated products that contain synthetic cannabinoid compounds, including Spice. Navy personnel who wrongfully possess, use or distribute designer drugs or products containing synthetic cannabinoid compounds such as Spice may be subject to punitive action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), adverse administrative action, or both.

Deterrence and Testing

- To deter drug abuse, commands should continually communicate the [Navy's zero tolerance policy](#). Education, effective execution and compliance with urinalysis testing, and accountability for those who abuse these substances will help deter their abuse.
- The Navy is working with the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) to develop testing for new substances. The AFMES has developed the capability to test for a limited number of these products.

Zero Tolerance Policy

- Substance abuse puts lives and mission at risk and is inconsistent with our core values of honor, courage and commitment.
- [NAVADMIN 108/10](#) reemphasizes the Navy's policy that prohibits possession of substances or designated products that contain synthetic cannabinoid compounds, such as Spice, Genie, Blaze, Dream, Ex-ses, Spark, Fusion, Dark Knight, Yucatan Fire and K2.
- On [March 1](#), a ban on several of the synthetic cannabis compounds commonly found in Spice went into effect in the United States for at least one year while the [Drug Enforcement Administration \(DEA\)](#) and the Department of Health and Human Services further study whether these chemicals and products should be permanently controlled.

Adverse Health Effects

- According to the DEA, increased use of synthetic marijuana has led to a surge in emergency room visits and calls to poison control centers. Adverse health effects associated with its use include seizures, hallucinations, paranoid behavior, agitation, anxiety, nausea, vomiting, racing heartbeat and elevated blood pressure.
- Case reports have also described psychotic episodes, withdrawal and dependence associated with the use of these synthetic cannabinoids.
- These chemicals have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for human consumption, and there is no oversight of the manufacturing process. Although no official studies have been conducted on the effects on humans, health officials warn of the dangers associated with these unknown compound mixtures.

Key Messages

- The Navy's policy on drug abuse is simple and clear: zero tolerance.
- Substance abuse increases risk to lives and mission, and [undercuts unit readiness](#) and morale.
- Adverse health effects, including seizures, hallucinations and vomiting, may result from the use of Spice and similar compounds.
- Sailors who wrongfully possess Spice or similar substances [will be held accountable](#).

Facts & Figures

- DEA ruled the five synthetic compounds used to manufacture Spice, JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200, CP-47,497 and cannabicyclohexanol, as controlled substances.
- In the last five months, 192 Sailors were held accountable for use or possession of Spice or a Spice derivative.
- Navywide, positive urinalyses have dropped 50 percent during the last 10 years.