



CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

MCB Camp Lejeune, NC & MCAS New River, NC

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY

SUBJECT: E-Cigarettes, Vaporizers, and Other Electronic Smoking Devices

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS: (U//FOUO) A narcotic trend surfaced in the spring of 2017 in the MCB CAMLEJ/MCASNR area with detrimental impact to the health and readiness of the force. The popularity of “vaping” as an alternative to cigarettes has given rise to the marketing of vaping liquids containing Cannabidiol (CBD), some infused with synthetic ingredients, all used for its psychotropic effects. Some of the vaping substances have been found to contain ingredients which are in violation of the Substance Abuse Act – making them unlawful to use, possess, or transfer under the UCMJ as well as under federal and state laws.

Since May 2017 the number of personnel affected by the vape oil trend is equivalent in number to a reinforced company sized element; this degree of impact, if left unchecked, has the potential to cause further degradation to overall unit readiness and combat effectiveness. Eighty-four (84) documented subjects were involved in thirty-five (35) separate vape oil incidents, to date:

- Two (2) incidents resulted in motor vehicle collisions with injury
- One (1) incident resulted in a near head on collision with a Military Police Officer
- One (1) incident involved a Marine at the rifle range
- Twenty-five (25) users experienced seizures and/or loss of consciousness resulting in hospitalization
- Multiple incidents involved combative behavior

This vaping oil trend increased the total number of narcotic reports for CY2017 4th Quarter, by 113%, with an expectation to continue to increase significantly into the following quarter (CY2018 1st Quarter).

The Carolina’s Poison Center, located in Charlotte, NC, published a situational report in regard to vape oil overdoses occurring in the state, which parallels the epidemic occurring aboard the installation(s).

- Gaston County / 30DEC17: 19YO admitted into the hospital after suffering two (2) seizures
- Mecklenburg County / 31DEC17: 18YO admitted to the hospital after suffering two (2) seizures and as of 09JAN18 is still hospitalized
- Mecklenburg County / 31DEC17: 20YO hospitalized after suffering from periods of apnea, hyperventilating, and severe anxiety
- Cumberland County / 02JAN18: 22YO hospitalized after suffering from a seizure. The physician reported encountering two (2) additional patients who exhibited similar symptoms but would not divulge their activity prior to the seizures

Documented effects observed both aboard and off the installation(s):

- Seizures / Unconsciousness
- Vomiting / Nausea
- Headaches / Dizziness / Lightheadedness
- Memory Loss
- Saggy eyes / Dilated Pupils
- Dissociate Behavior
- Slurred Speech / Stuttering
- Anxiety / Racing Heartrate
- Erratic behavior / moodiness
- Extreme Fatigue

Additional Information:

Not all vape oils contain substances or compounds which are considered Schedule I Narcotics. The majority of vape oils only contain nicotine; however, numerous products are being marketed as containing cannabidiol, cannabidiol derivatives or THC. The use of all cannabidiol, cannabinol derivatives, and THC infused products are prohibited for all DoD Members. Substances violating the Substance Abuse Act are unlawful for service members and punishable under the UCMJ. The use, possession, manufacture, distribution, and introduction of controlled substance analogues, products containing synthetic THC agonist, natural substances, or pharmaceutical compounds with the intent to induce or enable intoxication, excitement or stupefaction of the central nervous system – along with the use of chemicals not illegal to possess in order to get high instead of their intended use-also violates punitive service regulations.

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