



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

MCO 1700.22F
MR

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MARINE CORPS ORDER 1700.22F

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL IN THE MARINE CORPS

Ref: (a) MCO P1700.24B
(b) 10 U.S.C. 47
(c) MCO P1700.27B

1. Situation. This Order establishes policies and provides requirements for implementation of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) measures and programs for the purpose of protecting individuals, and preserving unit readiness. Paragraph 4.a(1)(g)5 of this Order is punitive.

2. Cancellation. MCO 1700.22E.

3. Mission. This Order establishes the Marine Corps regulation for the administration and management of ABC, focusing on prevention efforts; establishment of Corps-wide minimum possession and drinking age; employment of personnel to dispense alcoholic beverages; sale of package alcoholic beverages; sale, possession, and consumption by the drink; sale, possession, and consumption of malt beverages; and the possession and consumption of alcohol in Government quarters.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Measures for ABC to prevent and deter abuse, as provided in reference (a), must be an integral part of the management of alcoholic beverages on Marine Corps installations and include the following:

(a) Sale of alcoholic beverages during recreational activities will be balanced with non-alcoholic beverages to encourage healthy lifestyles for Marines, their families, and friends.

(b) Except as specifically authorized in this Order,

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the sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages within any Marine Corps installation is prohibited.

(c) Marine Corps activities located at installations hosted by other Services shall also abide by the provisions of this Order and reference (a).

(d) Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) activities (including Marine Corps Exchanges (MCX) and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR)) are not authorized to participate in any type of alcoholic beverage promotions sponsored by commercial enterprises that are directed or targeted primarily or exclusively at the military community. Examples of promotions include, but are not limited to, sweepstakes, lucky number events, bottle-top redemption, premiums, discount coupons, or providing sample products. This does not preclude conducting on-premise beverage tasting limited to sections of the building where alcohol is sold or served with adequate safeguards to ensure that drinking age and other restrictions on alcohol use are met. MCCS package beverage stores or other MCCS activities selling alcohol may participate in promotions available to the general public at large.

(e) In-store marketing of alcoholic beverages is limited to the section or area where alcohol is sold.

(f) Placement of alcoholic beverages and marketing items in locations that are normally used by underage patrons is not authorized.

(g) Minimum Age to Possess or Drink Alcoholic Beverages

1. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages while under the age of 21 on any Marine Corps installation located in the United States or territories is prohibited except as authorized by paragraph 3 below. The minimum drinking age overseas will be based on the host nation's drinking age, international treaties and agreements, and on the local situation as determined by the local installation commander, but in no case shall it be below the age of 18. "Minimum drinking age" means the minimum age established for persons who may purchase, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages.

2. Selling or providing alcohol to anyone under the minimum drinking age is prohibited. Persons selling or providing alcohol to others are required to take reasonable

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steps (i.e. checking ID's) to ensure the person receiving the alcohol is above the minimum drinking age. It should also be noted, however, that ID checks are not required of officers and staff non commissioned officers (SNCOs) in uniform.

3. The commander of a Marine Corps installation may waive the age 21 requirement but not below 18 years of age, if such commander determines that the exemption is justified by special circumstances. Special circumstances are those infrequent, non-routine military occasions when an entire unit, as a group, marks at a military installation a uniquely military occasion such as the conclusion of arduous military duty or the anniversary of the establishment of a military service or organization. The waiver must be in writing and this authority may not be delegated. The event must be held on a military installation. The commander shall ensure that appropriate controls are in place for the safety of all involved. Military members under the age of 21 granted a waiver to drink alcoholic beverages under the authority of this paragraph shall not drive a motor vehicle within eight hours of last consuming an alcoholic beverage. It is illegal in some states for a person under the age of 21 to drive a motor vehicle with any amount of alcohol in his system.

4. The authority to drink at age 18 is a privilege, not a right. This authority shall be administered by the commander based on his assessment of each Marine's maturity and ability to responsibly execute.

5. For military personnel, this paragraph is a lawful general order and applies without further implementation. Violations may result in disciplinary action under Article 92 of reference (b), and/or other adverse administrative action. For civilians, violations may result in civilian criminal prosecution or other adverse action, including for DOD civilian personnel, adverse administrative action.

6. In order to maintain age requirements and to serve alcohol responsibly, alcoholic beverages may not be available for consumption at "help yourself" or unstaffed servings.

(h) Employment of Personnel to Dispense Alcoholic Beverages. In the United States, no person under 21 years of age will be employed to dispense, handle, or serve alcoholic beverages unless permitted by laws of the state in which the installation is located. In such cases, the state minimum age laws may be followed. Outside the United States, no person

under 18 years of age shall be employed to dispense, handle, or serve alcoholic beverages. A higher serving age shall be based on international treaties and agreements and on the local situation as determined by the local installation commander. MCCS employees involved in the sale, dispensing, or serving of alcoholic beverages will be trained in exercising alcoholic beverage control to enable "responsible" consumption. (Note: The minimum age requirement does not apply to cashiers in MCX convenience stores or similar activities which simply sell packaged alcoholic beverages.)

(i) Sale of Package Alcoholic Beverages

1. The sale of packaged alcoholic beverages will be only at authorized MCCS Retail Outlets per reference (c).

2. Pricing for distilled spirits sold in CONUS shall be no more than 10 percent below the best local price in ABC states and no more than 5 percent less in non-ABC states.

3. Pricing for distilled spirits sold overseas shall be within the range of prices established for CONUS, unless the same alcoholic beverages are sold locally for less. Those alcoholic beverages may be sold for 10 percent less than the local price.

(j) Sale, Possession, and Consumption by the Drink. Installation commanders are authorized to permit the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages by the drink in the following facilities:

1. Commissioned officers' clubs,
2. SNCO clubs,
3. Enlisted clubs,
4. Consolidated clubs,
5. Restaurants,
6. Golf course clubhouses, and on the golf course,
7. Bowling centers, and

8. Marine Corps Temporary Lodging. This authority is limited to the on-premises sale of miniature-sized

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containers of distilled spirits and individual containers of malt beverages and wine. The term "malt beverage" is defined as "beer, lager, malt liquor, ale, porter and any other brewed or fermented beverage."

9. VIP Rooms and Suites in Bachelor Officers' Quarters (BOQ). This authority is limited to the sale of miniature-sized containers of distilled spirits and individual containers of malt beverages and wine for on-premises possession and consumption in rooms or suites. Sales will be controlled by MCCS.

10. Areas designated by the installation commander for command entertainment or organized social functions on an occasional basis.

(k) Sale, Possession, and Consumption of Malt Beverages. Installation commanders are authorized to permit the sale, possession, and consumption of malt beverages by the drink in the following facilities:

1. MCCS snack bars, and

2. BOQ and SNCOs' quarters. This authority is limited to the sale for on-premises consumption through vending machines which are under constant supervision to ensure the purchaser meets the required drinking age.

(l) Possession and Consumption in Government Quarters. Subject to the minimum drinking age, installation commanders are authorized to permit the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in Government quarters as follows:

1. Married officers' quarters,

2. BOQ,

3. Married enlisted quarters,

4. Bachelor SNCOs' quarters,

5. Bachelor enlisted quarters,

6. Civilian employee quarters, and

7. Temporary/recreation lodging activities.

(2) Concept of Operations. Guidance, instruction, and special emphasis programs will be developed at the installation level to promote ABC.

b. Subordinate Element Missions. Commanders shall ensure that ABC reflects command presence and leadership initiatives.

c. Coordinating Instructions. Commanders of Marine Corps installations and commanders of Marine Corps tenant activities permanently located aboard Government reservations, other than Marine Corps installations, will issue detailed ABC instructions. These instructions will conform to the provisions of references (a) and (c) and this Order. The provisions of this Order apply to Marine Corps activities and to individual Marines serving on other Government reservations.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. The Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps, Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA), is responsible for the publication of changes to this Order as required.

b. Commands proposing changes to this Order should contact the Personal and Family Readiness Division DC M&RA (MRRO).

6. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.



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