

Abuse of Prescribed Medications is Punishable under the UCMJ

According to AFI 44-120 para 1.1.6. use of prescription drugs in a manner contrary to their intended medical purpose, in excess of the prescribed dosage or for the specific prescribed event can be punishable by the UCMJ.

1.1.6. In order to ensure military readiness; safeguard the health and wellness of the force; and maintain good order and discipline in the service, the knowing use of any intoxicating substance, other than the lawful use of alcohol or tobacco products, that is inhaled, injected, consumed, or introduced into the body in any manner to alter mood or function is prohibited. These substances include, but are not limited to, controlled substance analogues (e.g., designer drugs such as "spice" that are not otherwise controlled substances); inhalants, propellants, solvents, household chemicals, and other substances used for "huffing"; **prescription or over-the-counter medications when used in a manner contrary to their intended medical purpose or in excess of the prescribed dosage**; and naturally occurring intoxicating substances (e.g., Salvia divinorum). The possession of any intoxicating substance described in this paragraph, if done with the intent to use in a manner that would alter mood or function, is also prohibited. **Failure to comply with the prohibitions contained in this paragraph is a violation of Article 92, UCMJ.**

Drug Abuse—The wrongful use, possession, distribution, or introduction onto a military installation, or other property or facility under military supervision, of a controlled substance, **prescription medication, over-the-counter medication**, or intoxicating substance (other than alcohol) .

—Wrongful means without legal justification or excuse, and includes **use contrary to the directions of the manufacturer or prescribing healthcare provider**, and use of any intoxicating substance not intended for human ingestion. (For purposes of this Instruction, drug abuse also includes inhalant abuse (sometimes referred to as —huffing) and **steroid usage other than that specifically prescribed by a competent medical authority**.) **Violators are subject to punitive action under the UCMJ and/or adverse administrative actions.**

