



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs**

Office of the Commissioner

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January 29, 2015

TO: Senator Bill Stoltze
Chairman, Alaska State Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: BG Mike Bridges 
Acting Commissioner & TAG

SUBJECT: Marijuana Legalization & the Military

The legalization of marijuana in Alaska raises several issues pertaining to the military and the Alaska National Guard. While marijuana is soon to be legal in Alaska, the Federal prohibitions on the use of marijuana for Active Duty and Alaska National Guard service members and civilian employees remain.

The Alaska National Guard maintains that the use of illicit drugs, to include marijuana, is inconsistent with Army and Air Force Values, the Warrior Ethos, and the standards of performance, discipline, and readiness necessary to accomplish the Alaska National Guard mission.

Service members who test positive for Marijuana (THC) will be evaluated for dependency, disciplined, as appropriate, and processed for separation. Further, the standard punishment for an active duty service member who tests positive for marijuana is immediate separation from the military.

DoD civilian federal employees are also subject to restrictions governing drug use contained in DoD instruction 1010.09 and applicable Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental health Services Administration Guidelines.

The legalization of marijuana in Alaska will also likely have a negative effect on the ability of Military and National Guard recruiters to carry out their mission. Currently, only 25% of the recruitment-age population of the United States is even eligible for military service. While the intermittent use of marijuana is not an immediate disqualifier for enlistment, regular use of marijuana is a disqualifier for enlistment. These standards apply for both Active Duty and National Guard service.

If you have any further questions regarding the impact of the legalization of marijuana on the military and the Alaska National Guard, please contact Jakob Johnsen, the DMVA legislative liaison, at 907.465.6378 or Jakob.johnsen@alaska.gov