



THE
TRIP
AND
YOU

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UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND
VIETNAM



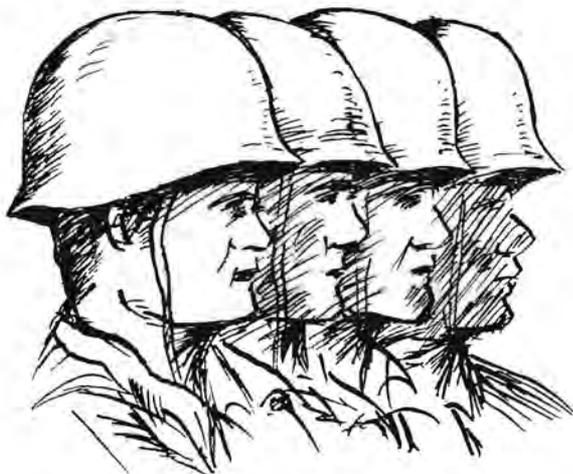
COMMAND INFORMATION

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THE PRICE YOU PAY



Have you heard about the nutty college kid who jumped down the stairs step-by-step because he thought he was only six inches tall? How about the 16-year-old Florida boy who shot and killed all five members of his family? Then there was a Colorado man who tried to shoot his wife but killed her grandmother instead. Then he killed himself.

Each case is true. Each of the three men had something in common. All were on a "trip" and victims of marijuana or drugs in one form or another.

But what does this have to do with you? Why should you be concerned?

Drug abuse has a particularly important consequence for each member of the Armed Forces. Unlike civilians, those in the military service have a special dependency on each other. The lives of all those on a Navy ship, a Marine fire team, a fighter-bomber, or in the Army's armored vehicles, may depend on the alertness of one man. No commander can trust the fate of his unit, ship or plane to a man who may be under the influence of drugs.

The drug abuser in military service leaves himself wide open as a security risk; for example, he can be blackmailed by threat of exposure. He can also be led to sell or give away classified information to support a drug habit. Also, while under the influence of narcotics he may overlook or ignore proper security measures.

Another reason why you should be concerned is the penal consequences. In military law, abusers of marijuana and other narcotics are prosecuted as violators of Articles 92 and 134, of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. More important, drug offenders may also be prosecuted under Article 112, "Drunk on Duty." It is immaterial whether the drunkenness was caused by liquor or drugs; an intoxication which impairs the "rational and full exercise of mental and physical facilities" is drunkenness within the meaning of Article 112.

The Manual for Courts Martial provides a single maximum punishment of a Dishonorable Discharge, and confinement for 5 years



for narcotic offenses, whether they involve use, possession, sale, etc. Under Federal Law the penalties for drug offenses can be as much as 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine for a first offense.

Drugs have a definite place in our society. When medically prescribed and properly used, drugs can benefit all mankind. But when they are misused or abused, they cause serious complications, sometimes even death.

Drugs vary from the familiar headache aspirin to the "miracle drug" that cures a severe form of pneumonia. Drug forms include narcotics, hallucinogens, depressants and stimulants. All drugs are susceptible to abuse and no matter how beneficial they may be as medicine, can be dangerous. If misused, they can lead to psychological and physical complications, sometimes even death. Certain drugs such as LSD, Heroin and Marijuana—the hallucinogens—can damage the mind and have no known medical benefit whatsoever.

The effect on the individual who misuses drugs is the most far reaching point to consider. The desire to misuse drugs is entirely inconsistent with the desire for individual freedom. The abuser no longer has a choice. Torn down physically and mentally—sometimes permanently—his time, money and energy are wasted. His only care or purpose is to secure his supply of drugs. When his interest in all about him is gone, he loses contact with the normal society, and eventually excludes himself from society altogether. He is looked upon as a person who lacks emotional stability and respect for law. His erratic behavior and changes in emotional responses or reactions may cause danger to both himself and society.

Drugs never have precisely the same effect on two individuals. Its effect depends on the combination of the drug and the individual. A drug user's reactions can be expected to follow one or more of the following patterns:

The Marijuana User. Marijuana smokers use cigarettes, often called "sticks," "grass" or "pot." Marijuana produces a variety of immediate mental and physical effects which become more pronounced with chronic use. Marijuana is particularly hazardous. While under its influence, concepts of time and space can be radically distorted and response to an emergency is unpredictable. This difference becomes very important when the



marijuana user operates a car, plane, or any motorized machine. A recent report of the New York County Medical Society noted that habitual use of marijuana can cause criminal acts, violence, and insanity. Marijuana may also cause sudden psychotic episodes or impulsive behavior in reaction to fear or panic. Dr. P. Chapple, a noted British physician, concluded that repetitious use of this drug could develop a taste or drug intoxication, cause eventual habitual use and graduation to more potent drugs—even heroin—and narcotic addiction.

The Heroin User. Heroin, often called "horse" or "H," becomes severely addictive both psychologically and physically. An addict cannot function normally without it and the body undergoes severe reactions when deprived of the drug. A person "hooked" on heroin quickly loses interest in his job, his family and even living. All he cares about is the dilemma caused by the high cost of illicit heroin and his need for increasingly larger doses. Because heroin is an expensive habit the addict often turns to theft and other sorts of crime, thereby, spreading harmful results into the community at large. Addicts can die from overdosage when the supplies contain more than the customary low percentage. (Addict deaths from overdosage at a rate of one a day have been reported in New York City.)

The LSD User. LSD, nicknamed "acid" is a very potent hallucinogenic drug. Its use distorts sight, sound, and sensation to produce an existence apart from reality. An LSD "trip" is not always pleasant. Sometimes the distortion of the senses produce a feeling of terror. Bizarre behavior in public, panic, fear, and homicidal and suicidal urges have been reported. Psychotic states have also been induced through the use of this drug. Fatigue, tension, and recurrent hallucinations may continue long after an experience with LSD. Psychological changes caused by the drug can stay for indefinite periods. One single dose of LSD may trigger mental illness and can cause genetic injury.

The Depressant User. Depressants (sedatives-barbiturates) are no less dangerous than "acid," "pot" or "horse" when misused. Barbiturates also create a physical dependence which is more difficult to escape from than narcotics. If supplies are suddenly discontinued, severe pain, convulsion, delirium and even death may occur.

The Stimulant User. Stimulants can be equally dangerous to the body, if abused.

The main danger of these amphetamine drugs, often called "bennies" or "pep pills," is the possibility of mental illness. As with barbiturates, increasingly larger doses are required to produce results. But larger dosage frequently creates paranoia—the feeling that others are plotting harm against you—or other unpleasant hallucinations such as the feeling you are covered with insects. Another danger is that it is easy to damage the heart and circulatory system by overestimating the physical capabilities of the body. The drug permits physical exertion when, without it, the body indicates its need for rest. Withdrawal from stimulants is usually physically painless. However, severe depression, occasionally leading to suicide, may result.

Drug abuse doesn't make good sense. Any person with common sense knows that used properly, drugs contribute to life. Used improperly, they can bring harm to the user and those who must rely on him. In the military, a drug abuser is a threat to the life and morale of his comrades. Be wise, stay away from marijuana and drugs.



A drug user in a combat zone is truly more your enemy than friend.