

P 021523Z AUG 11 BUMED WASHINGTON DC DANGERS OF SPICE AND OTHER  
SYNTHETIC DESIGNER DRUGS

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-----OFFICIAL INFORMATION DISPATCH FOLLOWS-----

PAAUZYUW RUEOMFB8854 2141525-UUUU--RUOIAAA RUOIABD.

ZNR UUUUU ZUI RUEOMCG4983 2141524

P 021523Z AUG 11 PSN 004282K16

FM BUMED WASHINGTON DC

TO AIG 7783

ZEN/BUMED WASHINGTON DC

ZEN/NAVMED EAST PORTSMOUTH VA

ZEN/NAVMED NCA BETHESDA MD

ZEN/NAVMED WEST SAN DIEGO CA

ZEN/NAVMEDSUPPCOM JACKSONVILLE FL

ZEN/CMC WASHINGTON DC

BT

UNCLAS

SECTION 1 OF 2

QQQQ

SIC: N01000

SUBJ: DANGERS OF SPICE AND OTHER SYNTHETIC DESIGNER DRUGS

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// N01000//MSGID/GENADMIN/BUMED//

SUBJ DANGERS OF SPICE AND OTHER SYNTHETIC DESIGNER DRUGS

UNCLASSIFIED//FM NAVY SURGEON GENERAL WASHINGTON DC/NXX/TO ALL NAVY

MEDICINE UNCLAS NXXXXX/ NAVADMIN XXX/XX

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REF/A/DOC/NAVADMIN108/10//10MAR10// REF/B/DOC/SECNAVINST

5300.28D/5DEC05// PAGE 02 RUCOMFC9949 UNCLAS REF/C/DOC/OPNAVINST

5350.4D/4JUN09// NARR/ REF A IS CNO NAVADMIN 108/10, DRUG ABUSE ZERO

TOLERANCE POLICY AND PROHIBITION ON POSSESSION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES

UNCLAS. REF B IS SECNAVINST 5300.28D, MILITARY SUBSTANCE ABUSE

PREVENTION AND CONTROL. REF C IS OPNAVINST 5350.4D, NAVY ALCOHOL

AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL.

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RMKS/1. THIS MESSAGE SERVES TO EDUCATE AND INFORM NAVY AND MARINE  
CORPS PERSONNEL ABOUT THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS OF SPICE,  
SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA COMPOUNDS AND OTHER SYNTHETIC DESIGNER DRUGS. IT  
IS PARAMOUNT ALL NAVY MEDICINE PERSONNEL ARE AWARE OF THE ADVERSE  
EFFECTS OF THESE DRUGS. COMMANDING OFFICERS MUST BE FULLY ENGAGED  
IN SYNTHETIC DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER  
TO INCREASE AWARENESS WITHIN THEIR COMMANDS OF THE SERIOUS HEALTH  
CONSEQUENCES AND LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS IF CAUGHT USING, POSSESSING,  
MANUFACTURING, PROMOTING, OR DISTRIBUTING SPICE AND OTHER SYNTHETIC  
DESIGNER DRUGS. THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED TO HELP PROVIDERS ADVISE  
THEIR PATIENTS, AND WHAT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITIES SHOULD

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COMMUNICATE TO THEIR PERSONNEL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND

COUNSELING, AND INCREASE AWARENESS FOR ALL HANDS AS TO THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF USAGE AND HEALTH AND LEGAL CONSEQUENCES.

2. PER REF A, THE NAVY'S ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR DRUG ABUSE INCLUDES POSSESSION OF SUBSTANCES OR DESIGNATED PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID COMPOUNDS, INCLUDING SPICE, FAKE MARIJUANA OR FAKE POT, HERBAL INCENSE OR POTPOURRI, SALVIA DIVINORUM, BATH SALTS, SKUNK, GENIE, BLAZE, DREAM, SPIKE 99, EX-SES, SPARK, FUSION, DARK KNIGHT, YUCATAN FIRE, AND K2, AMONG MANY OTHERS.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL WHO WRONGFULLY POSSESS, USE, PROMOTE, MANUFACTURE, OR DISTRIBUTE DESIGNER DRUGS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID COMPOUNDS SUCH AS SPICE OR PARAPHERNALIA MAY BE SUBJECT TO PUNITIVE ACTION UNDER ARTICLES 92 AND 112A OF THE UCMJ, ADVERSE ADMINISTRATION ACTION, OR BOTH. CONSUMPTION OF ANY OF THESE PRODUCTS MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR DRUG ABUSE AS DEFINED BY REF B AND REF C AND IS PROHIBITED BY BOTH INSTRUCTIONS. ON 1 MAR 2011 THE DEA ISSUED A FINAL RULE PLACING FIVE SYNTHETIC COMPOUNDS USED TO MANUFACTURE SPICE ON THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE LIST. THIS ACTION MAKES THE WRONGFUL USE, POSSESSION, DISTRIBUTION, AND INTRODUCTION OF THESE SUBSTANCES UNLAWFUL UNDER PAGE 04 RUEOMFB8854 UNCLAS

112A, UCMJ.

3. SPICE AND OTHER SYNTHETIC DRUG USE SUCH AS BATH SALTS, PLANT FOOD PRODUCTS, AND OTHER HERBAL PRODUCTS IS ON THE RISE, ARE READILY AVAILABLE, AND FALSELY MARKETED BY MANUFACTURERS AS A SAFE WAY TO GET HIGH WHILE AVOIDING DRUG TEST DETECTION. MANUFACTURERS CONSTANTLY CHANGE PRODUCT INGREDIENTS AND MARKET PRODUCTS UNDER NEW NAMES. IN THE PAST YEAR ALONE, HUNDREDS OF SAILORS WERE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR USE OR POSSESSION OF SPICE OR A SPICE DERIVATIVE. ONE TIME USE IS ENOUGH FOR DISCHARGE. THESE INCIDENTS ARE NOT RESTRICTED TO ONE TYPE OF PLATFORM OR COMMAND OR LOCATION. MOST OFFENDERS ARE E-5 AND BELOW. DETECTION THROUGH CONFESSION OF USE AND REPORTING OF BEHAVIOR IS MOST COMMON (1ST OFFENDER CAUGHT REPORTS OF OTHERS' USE WITHIN THE COMMAND).

4. SPICE LOOKS SIMILAR TO MARIJUANA OR OREGANO AND IS USED FOR PSYCHOACTIVE AND HALLUCINOGENIC EFFECT. THE PRODUCT CONTAINS ORGANIC LEAVES COATED WITH CHEMICALS. IT IS NOT FDA APPROVED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, THERE IS NO OVERSIGHT OF THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS. UNLIKE MARIJUANA, THE SYNTHETIC CHEMICALS IN SPICE-TYPE PRODUCTS ARE MORE POTENT TO THE BRAIN AND OTHER ORGANS BECAUSE THEY BIND THEMSELVES MORE PERMANENTLY TO RECEPTORS. SPICE COULD HAVE PAGE 05 RUEOMFB8854 UNCLAS

MULTIPLE UNKNOWN CHEMICALS INCLUDING HARMFUL METAL RESIDUES, WITH UNKNOWN POTENCY, POTENTIALLY 5-200 TIMES MORE POTENT THAN THC IN MARIJUANA. USERS ARE EXPERIMENTING WITH COMBINING DIFFERENT PRODUCTS WHICH CAN DRAMATICALLY CHANGE OR INCREASE EFFECTS. RAPID TOLERANCE IN SOME USERS CAN LEAD TO INCREASE DOSAGE AND ADDICTION. ACCORDING TO THE DEA, INCREASED USE OF SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA HAS LED TO A SURGE IN EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS AND CALLS TO POISON CONTROL CENTERS.

5. SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS ONSET WITHIN 5-10 MINUTES INCLUDE RELAXATION AND SEDATION, MARIJUANA-LIKE EFFECTS SUCH AS EUPHORIA, GIDDINESS, BLOODSHOT EYES, IMPAIRED SHORT-TERM MEMORY AND CONCENTRATION. THERE

IS ALSO A MORNING AFTER HANGOVER-LIKE EFFECT. OTHER MORE SERIOUS SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS THAT MAY DURATE FOR 8-10 HOURS MAY INCLUDE INTERNAL UNREST, TREMOR, PANIC ATTACKS, DELIRIUM, IMPAIRED COORDINATION, SLEEPLESSNESS, SEIZURES, PALPITATION, RAPID HEART RATE, AGITATION, INSOMNIA, HEADACHE, DIARRHEA, NAUSEA, AND VOMITING, AND SOME HAVE REPORTED PARANOID HALLUCINATIONS, CONFUSION, MOOD DISORDERS, LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS, AND PSYCHOTIC SYMPTOMS THAT CAN LAST FOR DAYS, EVEN MONTHS IN SOME CASES AND CAN BECOME DEBILITATING.

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6. THE NAVY IS WORKING WITH THE ARMED FORCES MEDICAL EXAMINER SYSTEM (AFMES) TO DEVELOP TESTING FOR NEW SUBSTANCES. THE AFMES HAS DEVELOPED THE CAPABILITY TO TEST FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF THESE PRODUCTS. THIS IS A MOVING TARGET AND DETECTION IS NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE USING THE NAVY'S ROUTINE DRUG TESTING PROGRAM. ONLY 6 COMPOUNDS ARE ON THE DEA'S SCHEDULE I LIST ON CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, WHILE THERE ARE 100+ SYNTHETIC COMPOUNDS THAT UNDERGROUND CHEMISTS CAN AND WILL CONTINUE TO USE TO DESIGN NEW SYNTHETICS TO OPTIMIZE EFFECTS AND IMPROVE MARKET BY ADVERTISING LACK OF DETECTABILITY.
7. TO DETER DRUG ABUSE, COMMANDING OFFICERS SHALL BE FULLY ENGAGED IN COMMAND'S IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO CONTINUALLY COMMUNICATE AND EDUCATE ALL HANDS AS TO THE NAVY'S ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY ON SPICE AND OTHER SYNTHETIC DESIGNER DRUGS. EACH COMMAND'S AGGRESSIVE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN MUST BEGIN WITH INDOC AND BE REINFORCED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. WE CANNOT OVERCOMMUNICATE THIS ISSUE. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THOSE WHO ABUSE THESE SUBSTANCES WILL HELP DETER THEIR ABUSE. GIVEN THE RISE IN USAGE, DETERRING SPICE ABUSE MUST BE AN ALL HANDS EFFORT. EVERY COMMANDING OFFICER NEEDS TO CONVEY THE HEALTH DANGERS AND ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY AND EVERY FINAL SECTION OF 2

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SHIPMATE NEEDS TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER AND REPORT KNOWN VIOLATIONS. SPICE PRESENTS A REAL AND PRESENT DANGER TO OUR SAILORS' AND MARINES' MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, AS WELL AS THEIR MILITARY CAREERS. COMMANDING OFFICERS, TRAINING OFFICERS, CHIEF'S MESS AND OTHERS ARE A HUGE PART OF GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT TO THE DECKPLATES AND ALSO IN RECOGNIZING CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR THAT MAY SIGNAL USAGE.

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9. COMMANDING OFFICERS DO NOT NEED A POSITIVE URINE RESULT TO BEGIN ADMINISTRATIVE SEPARATION. PERSONNEL INVOLVED OR WHO OBSERVE AN ABUSE AND DO NOT REPORT THE INCIDENT CAN ALSO BE CHARGED. COMMANDING OFFICERS SHALL RELEASE AND POST A LOCAL STANDING ORDER AND CONDUCT HEALTH AND COMFORT BARRACKS INSPECTIONS AS DEEMED NECESSARY. NAVY MEDICINE WILL CONTINUE TO DELIVER SUSTAINED, COORDINATED, ALIGNED AND TARGETED MESSAGES TO NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL ON THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS AND DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH SYNTHETIC DESIGNER DRUGS LIKE SPICE AND OTHER SYNTHETIC DRUGS. NAVY MEDICINE WILL PROMOTE RESULTS OF NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES INCLUDING SEPARATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS RESULTING FROM USE.
10. SENDS VADM ADAM M. ROBINSON// BT

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