



Navy Drug Screening Laboratory Jacksonville

Screening News

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NDSL Jacksonville
1984-2009
Celebrating 25
Years of Excellence

CO's Desk

Each member of the NDSL JAX team is committed to providing exceptional customer support through effective communication. Every day we receive requests for information about the drug testing program, discrepancies assigned to submitting commands, scheduling expert witness support and many others. In keeping with our "Customer First" policy, our highly experienced staff is determined not only to provide the assistance you require but ensure your interaction with the lab is a pleasant experience.

Additionally, we have produced a variety of informational products including:

- NDSL JAX Website (www.med.navy.mil/sites/jaxdruglab/Pages/default.aspx)
- NDSL JAX Fact Sheet (accessed through our website)
- NDSL JAX Wallet Card
- NDSL JAX Screening News

Each is designed to efficiently and effectively deliver general information addressing commonly asked questions about our command and the drug testing program.

If there is something you would like to see in the future or if you have suggestions on how we can improve, please contact me or a member of my staff. We are here to ensure your success.

E. R. Hoffman
CDR MSC USN

In Focus: Command Suite

NDSL JAX is proud to introduce our new Executive Officer, LT Matthew Jamerson. LT Jamerson comes to us from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) where he spent the last 2+ years as the Chief of Technical Services and Quality Assurance for the Division of Toxicology. Prior to his rotation at AFIP, LT Jamerson served as the Operations Officer and Assistant Technical Director for the Navy Drug Screening Laboratory, Great Lakes, IL. In addition to his military duties, LT Jamerson serves as an Inspector/Auditor for the National Laboratory Certification Program, involved in certifying civilian drug testing laboratories. Welcome LT Jamerson!

Did you know?

Entry errors identified on the chain-of-custody form (DD2624) account for about one-third of all assigned discrepancies.

Discrepancy of the Month

Chain-of-custody entry discrepancy

A chain-of-custody entry discrepancy is applied to DD 2624 forms when entries are incorrect, incomplete, illegible, missing, overwritten or not forensically corrected. This discrepancy is most commonly assigned to DD 2624 forms where the chain-of-custody entries are incomplete; i.e., there is a name and signature but no indication that the samples were released to the postal service for shipment to NDSL JAX or the samples were taken out of storage and no further entries were made. When filling out the back of the DD 2624 form, chain-of-custody entries should reflect where the samples were, from the date of collection to the point where the samples were released to the postal service or private courier for shipment to NDSL JAX. Chain-of-custody entries should be legible and any changes made to entries on the DD 2624 form should be by forensic correction (line-out the incorrect entry, make a new entry, enter the date when the new entry was made and your initials). If you send a photocopy of a DD 2624 form, make sure that the last entry (person releasing samples to the postal service for shipment to NDSL JAX) has an original signature. Please remember that you CANNOT use correction fluid or correction tape to make any changes to the DD 2624 forms.

Did you know?

The Department of Navy has a new Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Control Instruction (OPNAVINST 5350.4D).

Drug Facts



Herbal Incense

Information obtained from Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

www.usdoj.gov/dea

Description: Herbal mixture commonly known as “Spice” is sold in head shops in European countries and on the Internet. The mixtures are advertised as herbal incense or "legal high"; however, users tend to smoke Spice in a joint. When smoked, the herbal mixtures give users a high very similarly to marijuana (1). Spice and other brands of herbal mixtures (i.e., Genie, Skunk and Yucatan Fire) are made up of mixture of exotic plant materials such as Bay bean, Blue Lotus, and Maconha Brava (1). These plant mixtures themselves are not known to induce a high; however, most of the herbal mixtures are laced with synthetic compound(s) that mimics Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active chemical in marijuana. Various laboratories have shown the presence of THC-mimicking compounds such as CP 47,497, JWH-018, and/or HU-210 (1-4).

Did you know?

NDSL Jacksonville was established as a command in 1984. CDR John F. Jemionek was the first Commanding Officer

Common Names: Spice, legal high, Genie, Yucatan Fire, Skunk

Effects: CP 47,497 and JWH-018 are synthetic cannabinoid agonists that do not have the classical cannabinoid chemical structure (5-7). They bind to the same receptor as THC and thus have similar effects in the body as THC. HU-210, on the other hand, has a similar structure to THC, but it's shown to be much more potent than THC (5,8). These compounds are made in the laboratory and intended only for use in scientific research as a tool to study the cannabinoid system. Behavioral pharmacology studies show that these synthetic compounds have very similar activity in animals as THC. In mice, it decreases overall activity, produces analgesia, decreases body temperature and produces catalepsy. Together, these four effects are used by scientists to predict THC-like psychoactivity in humans.

Trends: The use of Spice and other herbal mixtures is being noticed by various authorities in European countries. Recently, it has been reported that European countries such as Germany, Austria, England, and Sweden are either banning Spice or in the process of doing so (1). Herbal mixtures that contain HU-210 are already illegal in the United States since HU-210 is a schedule I controlled substance under the Control Substance Act (5).

Sources

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3. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Microgram Bulletin (2009)
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6. Aung, M. M.; *et al.* Influence of the N-1 alkyl chain length of cannabimimetic indoles upon CB₁ and CB₂ receptor binding. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* (2000) **60**(2): 133–140
7. Weissman A, Milne GM, Melvin LS Jr. Cannabimimetic activity from CP-47,497, a derivative of 3-phenylcyclohexanol. *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*. (1982) **223**(2): 516-23.
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Did you know?

Technical experts are available to assist commands, the legal community and service members with questions regarding drugs, drug testing and test results.

Ask the Expert

1. If my Command does not have a policy regarding the use of Spice or other similar herbal materials, can I use it?

Answer: No. According to OPNAVINST 5350.4D, one may not use a substance which could cause impairment; i.e., any intoxication which is sufficient to diminish the rational and full exercise of the member's mental or physical faculties.

2. How does the drug screening laboratory report test results?

Answer: The drug screening laboratory generally reports test results by iFTDL web portal or Navy Regional Enterprise Messaging System (NREMS) to the UIC provided on the

Did you know?

Four levels of test review ensure the accuracy and validity of all results reported by the lab. The levels of review are:

- Technician
- Quality Control
- Initial Laboratory Certifying Official
- Final Laboratory Certifying Official

DD2624 form.

3. How can we assist the drug screening laboratory in reporting test results to my unit in timely manner?

Answer: Make sure the DD2624 Form is correctly completed and make sure the UIC in **Block 4** correlates with the Command Name in **Block 1** on the DD2624 Form.

4. How should I submit my samples to the drug screening laboratory to minimize delays in processing the urine samples?

Answer: Recently we have noticed that some specimen bottles have leaked during shipment. To reduce the risk of this occurring, please ensure specimen bottle lids are properly secured. In addition, please do not place specimen bottles in sealed baggies, clear FedEx® envelopes or place tape or plastic wrap around bottle lid. All these modifications do not improve submission quality and make it much more difficult for our technicians to process the sample.