



Navy Drug Screening Laboratory Jacksonville

Screening News

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Contact Us:
NDSL Jacksonville
PO Box 113
Bldg H-2033
Naval Air Station
Jacksonville, FL
32212-0113
904-542-7755
DSN 942-7755

CO's Desk

During the past few months, we have been receiving many questions concerning "spice." Spice is one of many herbal incense products that seem to be increasing in popularity throughout the United States. In response to numerous inquiries, Navy Personnel Command's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program (NADAP) recently posted extensive information about spice and spice-like products on their website at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NADAP>.

Per NADAP guidance, "Commanding Officers can implement local policy (a standing order) that prohibits the actual or attempted possession, purchase, use, distribution, and/or manufacture of herbal products (to include herbal incense, *Salvia divinorum*, jimson weed, etc.) on government property in their AOR." A sample standing order is located on the NADAP webpage at: www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NADAP.

For more information about spice or similar products, please contact NADAP or our technical experts.

Saved rounds: Last year our highly-experienced yet small staff of expert witnesses supported over 70 cases, provided 800 formal consultations and were on the road over 110 days. Because this resource is high demand/low density, please ensure you immediately notify our program coordinator, Ms. Bobbie Wiggins, at (904) 542-7755 x 100, if you need to make changes to your support requirements including event cancellations or rescheduling. This will allow us to support as many customers as possible.

On behalf of the NDSL JAX staff, thanks for all you do.

E. R. Hoffman
CDR MSC USN

In Focus: Support Services

The Support Services Department consists of eight office-automation clerks who are ready to assist you, the customer, by answering questions or providing legal documentation as requested. We recommend giving us a call if you have any

Did you know:

Over one thousand samples are given the "FR" discrepancy code every month.

questions regarding testing procedures, status of specimens sent, or if you need clarification on a discrepancy assigned to your submission. We are here to help and are standing by to assist your command.

Once specimens have been received and placed into a laboratory batch, the accompanying DD Forms 2624 are forwarded to our Department for data input into our computer system. The DD Forms 2624 are reviewed for accuracy and, when necessary, discrepancy codes are assigned to the form and/or specimens. When the testing and certification processes is complete, the computer system automatically generates a message. In addition to data input functions, the Support Services personnel are custodians of all drug testing paperwork submitted by commands within our area of responsibility. All paper records are maintained for a minimum of three years and then destroyed.



Shown above: Support Services Department staff

Discrepancy of the Month

FR = FORM ON TWO PIECES OF PAPER - NO LINKING IDENTIFIERS

This discrepancy is applied when the DD Form 2624 is received on two pieces of paper and there is no annotation made to link the two pages together. The best practice would be to copy the DD Form 2624 using one piece of paper, front and back. If that is not possible, you must write the local batch number (initial and date the entry) across the top of the second piece of paper containing your chain of custody entries. This entry will effectively connect your chain of custody to the specimens being submitted. Sending the DD Form 2624 on two pieces of paper by stapling the two pages together or sending multiple back pages and front pages without the local batch number entries linking them will result in your Command receiving the "FR" discrepancy. So remember, specimens listed on a DD Form 2624 must have associated chain of custody entries and there must be a clear connection between these two pages.

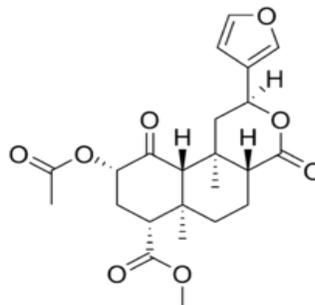
Did you know:

In Florida, the possession of *Salvia divinorum* is a Class I felony, punishable by up to 5 years in prison.

Drug Facts



Salvia divinorum



Salvinorin A

Description: *Salvia divinorum*, commonly referred to as Salvia, is an herb of the mint family (1). It is commonly grown in the mountains of Sierra Mazateca near Oaxaca, Mexico, and is known to have strong psychotropic effects. The Mazatec Indians utilize this herb in their divine and healing rituals (1). The psychotropic agent in this herb is present within the leaves and is referred to as Salvinorin A (2). As of 2008, thirteen states have enacted regulatory control over Salvia and Salvinorin A either by classifying it as a schedule I drug or prohibiting its distribution. Legislation is being proposed in many other states to ban Salvia. This product is sold at head shops or via the internet in a variety of forms: seeds, the whole plant, plant cuttings, dry leaves and liquid extracts. This herb is usually ingested by chewing or, more commonly, by smoking.

Common Names: Salvia, Maria Pastora (Mary the shepherdess), Sage of the Seers, Diviner's Sage, Sally-D, and Magic Mint (3).

Effects: Salvinorin A, the main active ingredient in *Salvia divinorum*, is a strong hallucinogenic compound which selectively binds to the kappa opioid receptor in the brain (4). The effects of this drug are felt by the user rapidly after exposure coming as quickly as one minute after exposure and lasting anywhere from ten to thirty minutes. Some of the effects include psychedelic-like changes in visual perception, hallucinations, uncontrolled laughter, detachment from the environment and a sense of being in a different world. Physical effects associated with Salvia use include nausea, slurred speech and lack of coordination. Due to the sudden nature of these effects, it is not associated with the "party" environment like other drugs such as marijuana and ecstasy. At present, this compound is identified in urine specimens using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) techniques (5,6).

Trend: The use of Salvia in the U.S. population is increasing driven likely by the wealth of internet propaganda about it. About 1.8 million persons age 12 or older have used Salvia in their lifetime and approximately 750,000 did so in the past few years. Use is most prominent among young adults (18 to 25 years of age) and

uncommon among people 26 or older (7,8).

References:

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Ask the Expert

Did you know:

The “web portal” is the fastest and most reliable means of receiving drug testing results.

1. I have heard a lot about a “web portal” that I can log onto and get my Command’s drug testing results. What is the web portal and how do I sign up for it?

Answer: The web portal is a secure web-based means of receiving your drug testing results. To sign up for an account, you must contact Mr. Mauricio Austria (Mauricio.austria.ctr@navy.mil) or Ms. Cely Lara (celestina.lara@navy.mil) at Navy Personnel Command, Millington, TN. We encourage all commands that are able to receive messages in this manner to sign up to do so. Not only will you receive your results more rapidly, you will assist the Navy in reducing the burden on its messaging systems.

2. Is Salvia legal in the Navy?

Answer: No. The use, possession, promotion, or distribution of *Salvia* is prohibited by SECNAVINST 5300.28D, OPNAVINST 5350.4D, and NAVADMIN 109/10.

Did you know:

The use of *Salvia divinorum* has such a negative reinforcing hallucinogenic effect, that many first-time users do not use it again.

Violators of the Navy's "zero tolerance" drug policy are subjected to disciplinary actions and are processed for administrative separation.

3. Is the term "Spice" the same as Salvia?

Answer: No. The term "Spice" refers to a group of herbal incense products made from a variety of plants that are intentionally adulterated with synthetic cannabinoids (CP 47,497 and homologues, HU-210, HU-211, JWH-018, JWH-073). These cannabinoids are similar to chemicals found in *Cannabis sativa* (marijuana) but distinct in their chemical, physical and psychotropic properties when compared with Salvinorin A and chemicals found in *Salvia divinorum*. Spice-type Cannabinoids and Salvia are both on the DEA diversion control list.