

Navy's New Drug Test for Ecstasy

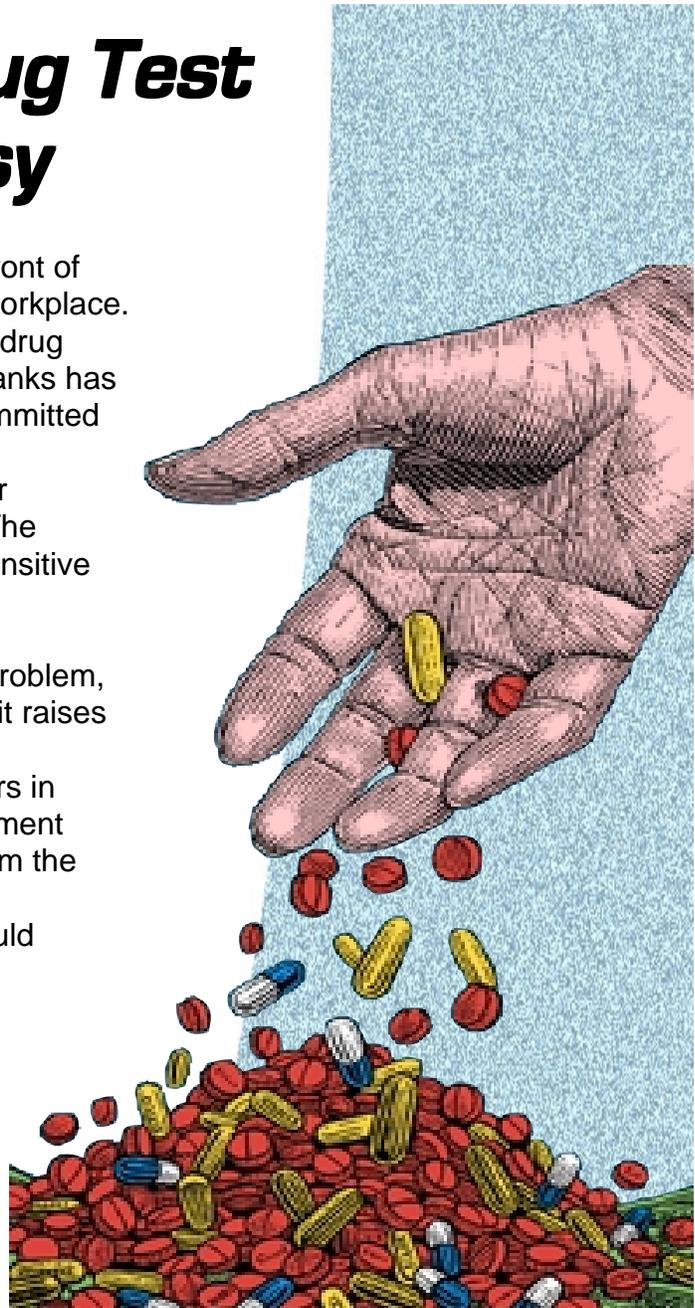
The Navy has positioned itself at the forefront of American society in maintaining a drug-free workplace. Yet, despite two decades of steady decline in drug abuse, Navy officials say ecstasy use in the ranks has increased over the past year and they are committed to reversing this disturbing trend.

Navy drug screening labs have tripled their abilities to detect the designer drug ecstasy. The new screening reagent is three times more sensitive than the previous one, and is employed in all Department of Defense drug-screening labs.

For Navy experts combating the ecstasy problem, the new test is a welcomed addition because it raises awareness levels of a drug understood to be genuinely dangerous and possibly fatal. Sailors in today's highly complex, technological environment put themselves and their shipmates at risk from the effects — and after effects — of ecstasy.

In acknowledging that the new reagent could result in an increase of positive drug tests for ecstasy, senior leadership should reinforce commitment to a zero tolerance policy for drug abuse.

Sailors should be warned about the increased detection capability to achieve a deterrent effect, and individual commands are encouraged to sharpen their prevention programs.



For more information about ecstasy, go to the PERS-6 Web site at navdweb.spawar.navy.mil and access the link "drugs of abuse."

Captain's Call Kit
Naval Media Center, Bldg. 168
2713 Mitscher Rd., SW
Anacostia Annex, DC 20373-5819
E-mail: pubs@mediacen.navy.mil
DSN 288- or (202) 433-4380
Fax: (202) 433-4747

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