



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS BASE  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-5001

BO 5353.2  
MWR/jaw  
7 Oct 1987

BASE ORDER 5353.2

From: Commanding General  
To: Distribution List

Subj: NORTH CAROLINA MINIMUM LEGAL DRINKING AGE ABOARD MARINE CORPS BASE,  
CAMP LEJEUNE

Ref: (a) N.C. GEN. STAT. 18B-302, Sale to or purchase by underage persons of  
alcoholic beverages  
(b) SECNAVINST 1700.11C  
(c) MCO 1700.22B

Encl: (1) Sample request to serve beer or wine to service members under the minimum  
North Carolina State drinking age at certain functions

1. Purpose. To establish policy and regulations regarding exemptions to the North Carolina minimum legal drinking age (NCMLDA) aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune.

2. Background. As of 1 October 1986, reference (a) makes it unlawful within the State of North Carolina for any person to sell or give alcoholic beverages to any person less than 21 years old. Reference (b) established as Department of the Navy policy the requirement that the minimum age for possession, sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on CONUS Military Installations be consistent with the law of the state in which the installation is located. Reference (c) provides that installation commanders are authorized to grant an exception to the local state drinking age policy under controlled conditions to foster camaraderie and friendship on infrequent, non-routine occasions, such as when a unit marks a unique military event, completes a military exercise, observes a unit anniversary, or similar events. It is considered that opportunities to consume limited quantities of beer and wine under controlled circumstances in the company of one's contemporaries and superiors will help teach a sense of social responsibility and lessen the risk of alcohol abuse. The exemption procedure is set forth below.

3. Policy and Regulations. The Commanding General, Marine Corps Base has the sole authority to grant exceptions to the legal minimum drinking age aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune. This authority is delegated to the Assistant Chief of Staff, Morale, Welfare and Recreation for approval of all such requests. Commanding Officers may request exemptions through their respective Commanding Generals to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base on behalf of their organization or a portion thereof, subject to strict compliance with the following guidelines.

a. Exemptions to the NCMLDA shall be limited to occasional special events, which are conducive to the creation or maintenance of unit morale and esprit de corps. Examples that qualify as special events are the Marine Corps Birthday, the completion of a return from deployment, and other such hallmark events in the life of a unit.

b. An exemption to the NCMLDA will ordinarily be authorized only when the official function is for a company or larger size unit gathering held at a single location. However, requests for exemptions may also be made on behalf of staff sections, classes, or other similar administrative elements.

c. Exemptions to the NCMLDA will not normally be permitted in conjunction with the commencement of an extended liberty period or holiday weekend. Unit Commanders should exercise extreme caution in granting liberty immediately following an event where excessive consumption of alcohol is likely to lead to reckless or dangerous operation of motor vehicles.

d. The gathering shall ordinarily be limited to no longer than four hours duration.



e. Exemptions to the NCMLDA will be authorized only for beer or, when the event includes a meal, for wine or other beverage necessary to accomplish traditional toasting requirements.

f. Non-alcoholic beverages will be available in reasonable quantities and, when feasible, appropriate food will be provided as well.

g. Contests or games which encourage alcoholic consumption are strictly prohibited.

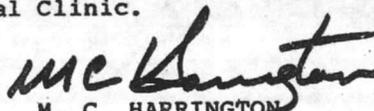
h. Each function shall be attended by at least one officer and, a sufficient number of other officers or staff noncommissioned officers who are responsible for ensuring that consumption of alcoholic beverages is denied to any participant who exhibits signs of overindulgence. Officers should also ensure that no participant observed to be impaired by the consumption of alcohol is permitted to operate a motor vehicle or motor boat.

i. The unit commander will report via the chain of command any accident or significant incident involving underage service members which may be construed as having resulted from the consumption of alcohol at a unit function. The unit commander will provide follow-up reports if further specifics become known.

j. Violations of the policy and regulations established herein are punishable as violations of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

k. Enclosure (1) contains a sample format for a request to serve beer or wine to service members under the minimum drinking age pursuant to requirements of this Order. Request should be submitted no later than two weeks prior to the event.

4. Concurrence. This Order has been coordinated and concurred in by the Commanding Generals, II Marine Amphibious Force, 2d Marine Division, FMF, 2d Force Service Support Group, (Rein), FMF, 6th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF and the Commanding Officers, Naval Hospital and Naval Dental Clinic.

  
M. C. HARRINGTON  
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: A

...the ... of ...

SAMPLE REQUEST TO SERVE BEER OR WINE TO SERVICE MEMBERS UNDER THE MINIMUM NORTH  
CAROLINA STATE DRINKING AGE AT CERTAIN FUNCTIONS

Letterhead

Date \_\_\_\_\_

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, (Attn: Assistant Chief of Staff,  
Morale, Welfare and Recreation)  
Via: (appropriate chain of command)  
Subj: REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION TO SERVE BEER OR WINE TO SERVICE MEMBERS UNDER THE  
MINIMUM NORTH CAROLINA STATE DRINKING AGE  
Ref: (a) BO 5353.2

1. Pursuant to the reference, it is requested that the following (organization)  
(unit) (section) (office) ( ) be granted an exemption to serve beer or wine to  
service members under the minimum North Carolina State drinking age. The below infor-  
mation is provided:
  - a. Special Occasion:
  - b. Nature of event:
  - c. Place:
  - d. Date:
  - e. Time (beginning/ending):
  - f. Number of persons under the minimum North Carolina State drinking age expected  
to attend:
  - g. Number of officers/staff noncommissioned officers/supervisors:
  - h. Name of designated responsible officer:
  - i. The following procedure will be used to ensure that no one under the influence  
of alcohol is allowed to drive a motor vehicle:
  - j. Transportation arrangements for participants after the event:
  - k. Point of contact and phone extension:
2. The following controls will be in effect:
  - a. Underage service member will be served or provided only beer or wine.
  - b. No underage civilian dependent or guest will be served or provided alcoholic  
beverages.
  - c. Underage service member will be served one alcoholic beverage at a time at a  
controlled point of issue.
  - d. All alcoholic beverages provided to underage service member will be consumed  
at the event.
  - e. No service member, underage or otherwise, in a duty status, such as Duty NCO,  
firewatch, guard mount, etc. will be served alcoholic beverages.
  - f. Officers and Staff NCO supervisors will be assigned in direct proportion to  
the number of personnel attending and will be present for the entire period of the

ENCLOSURE (1)



BO 5353.2  
7 Oct 1987

event. Specifically, they will ensure that EACH service member, with special attention to anyone who is underage:

(1) Does not engage in conduct that is dangerous to himself or others. Supervising personnel will take immediate action to defuse any potentially dangerous situation.

(2) Does not engage in conduct that will embarrass himself or the Marine Corps.

3. The Base Provost Marshall will be notified of the date, time, and location of the event.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

ENCLOSURE (1)

