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DUI

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. -- Two service members with the 26th Air Mobility Wing (AMW) were charged with alcohol related incidents on Jan. 16, 2020, making this the third alcohol related incident in the last month at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM).

JBLM has a zero tolerance policy for alcohol related incidents.

Six service members with the 26th AMW were returning from a fishing trip at Keyhole Reservoir at Keyhole State Park. They were pulled over on their way back to base for erratic driving. Two of the six service members were charged with driving under the influence (DUI) and underage consumption of alcohol.

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Base leadership would rather proactively prevent such incidents in the future, instead of being forced to react. The military's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) and Demand Reduction (DR) programs include substance abuse (SA) prevention, education, treatment, and urinalysis testing. ADAPT, DR, and SA and programs are thoroughly integrated into every facet of military core values, quality of life, and force management. These policies have been in place for more than two decades and have evolved to meet changing conditions within the services.

Alcohol related incidents result in severe consequences for service members. Within 24 hours of notification of the arrest, the service member's unit must conduct a full recall to discuss the risks and consequences of drunk driving and other alcohol related incidents. Within 72 hours, the alleged offender, their first sergeant, squadron commander, and group commander, must report to the wing commander's office in uniform. Supervisors and commanders must also do their part to educate their wingmen after the risks and consequences of drinking and driving and other alcohol related incidents.

"I hope that the new policy will serve as a deterrent," said Col. Jane Miller. "People will see the impact-the civilian court conviction, the fines and the community service. They will read about that, and that will serve as a deterrent. I'm hoping that seeing someone's name published in the paper will serve as a deterrent in and of itself."

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Alcohol related incidents such as DUI or underage drinking can severely impact a service member's chances for advancement and retention. In most alcohol related incidents, a service member can receive punishment from their squad commander, which can include reduction of rank, loss of pay, extra duty, and an Article 15.

Any service member who feels they have alcohol related issues are encouraged to seek help through an ADAPT self-referral program. Every service member should be armed with a set of knowledge and have a good plan when it comes to drugs and alcohol.

Both incidents are currently under investigation.