Synthetic Drug Awareness
BLUF

Consistent trend in use across DoN

- CONUS / OCONUS
- Navy / Marine Corps

Similar trend – Army / Air Force

No anticipation of decline in 2011

Threat to Operational Readiness and Warfighter

Coordinated effort required to mitigate threat by:

- Law enforcement
  - Prevent / Reduce / Eliminate use
- Legal
  - Hold users Accountable
- Command Leadership
  - Increase Awareness of negative impact / effects
Spice

- **Mixture of** *natural herbs* and *synthetic cannabinoids*
  - Sold as incense or herbal smoking blends
  - Smoked in a desire to achieve marijuana-like effects

- **Natural herbs**
  - baybean, blue lotus, lion’s tail, lousewort, indian warrior, dwarf skullcap, pink lotus, red clover etc…
  - Likely selected based on the sound of the names rather than any effect they cause
  - sprayed with synthetic cannabinoid before packaging for commercial sale

- **Synthetic cannabinoids**
  - Provide THC-like effect
  - Chemical compounds
Spice

- **Availability**
  - Sold as incense, potpourri, herbal room freshener
  - Labeled “Not for Human Consumption”

- **Common Brands**
  - Spice, K2, Genie, Red Dragon, Scale, Yucatan Fire, Zohai (several more)
  - Different brands = different synthetic compounds = different effects
  - Same brands = different synthetic compounds = different effects

- **Price**
  - $10 - $90 per gram
  - Determined by locale / availability

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What kind of “Botanical Potpourri” is “Not for sale to minors”???
What tests have found:

- JWH-018
- JWH-073
- JWH-200
- CP-47,497
- Cannabicyclohexanol
- HU-2010
What are these substances?

- CP 47,497
- HU-210
- JWH-018, JWH-73, JWH-200
- Cannabicyclohexanol
Effects

Marijuana-like “high”
- **Marijuana**: relaxation, reduced blood pressure, decreased motor skills
  - High doses: hallucinations and delusions
- **Spice**: hallucinations, agitation, elevated blood pressure and heart rate

Unpredictable
- Combine use with alcohol
- Strength of synthetic chemical used
- Manufacturers trying to “one-up” each other in potency
  - Chemical blends continuously manipulated
  - Maintain legal status
  - No oversight / regulation over manufacturing process
Effects

Users Have Reported to ERs with Numerous Side Effects

- Elevated Blood Pressure
- Hallucinations
- Tremors and Seizures
- Tachycardia
- Flushed Skin
- Excessive Sweating
- Numbness or Tingling
- Vomiting
- Loss of Consciousness / Non-Responsive
- Agitation
- Anxiety

*Users often report a PCP-like “separation from consciousness”*
Effects

Rapid Onset of Psychoactive and Negative Health Effects

- Hospitalizations
- Public Safety Issues
- DUIDs
- Violent Episodes
- Intoxication
- Other Criminal Offenses

Man blames synthetic pot as he admits to attack

York teen smokes Spice and nearly dies
Rushed to hospital after smoking Herbal Incense

Legal pot substitute ‘spice’ linked to Waikiki attempted murder

Millard South Shooter Tests Positive for Synthetic Marijuana
Medical Case Studies on Dependency and Withdrawal Symptoms

- 20 yro patient, 1g a day Spice Gold for 8 months, increased to 3g a day.
- Patient described main difference between Spice and Cannabis as less euphoria with Spice, but overall effect on his body as stronger.
- Had used illegal drugs for 3yrs-Hashish, then shrooms and Salvia.
- During a “shortage in supply” he experienced symptoms of withdrawal (as seen in Cannabis dependence), disappeared once reusing.
- During hospitalization, at day 4 began exhibiting signs of withdrawal (strong drug craving, nightmares, profuse sweating, nausea, tremor, headaches, elevated BP and HR.)
From blog discussion on health problems related to Spice use...

- So I've been reading all this is astonishment. Myself and MANY friends of mine have been smoking this for YEARS. I *used to be in the navy* and poppy seed tea just wasn't doing it anymore so I tried *this...back in 2007!* then in 2008 *I smoked 3 grams a day...almost every day.* PEP spice was the brand. expensive as it was I loved it. 2009, same thing till I went on deployment. *my first month or so underwater (submarine) I caughted up black stuff* (expected just like cigs or weed after smoking that much that long) then it went away. I also had sweaty palms...*ooooooh big deal.* lasted only a couple weeks, when I got home from deployemtn 6 months later I was STILL healthy just like before I started. I got more and continued smoking 3+ grams a day (got cheaper) of this new brand “GDS” and loved it. I've never had any weird unexpected effects nor has my wife or friends that tried it. I even have a healthy baby after *my wife smoked it while being pregnant for 4 months,* BUT WE DIDNT KNOW SHE WAS PREGGO. we of course immediately stopped when we found out (just like one would do with cigs too) and have a beautiful healthy baby! The problems im having, not knowing the relation to my problems and spice, is *coughing up black stuff* (expected), *my throat seems to have lump in it on the front left side* which doesn't change with spice smoking now, *I've lost weight :):)* I can run faster and further than ever without working out for years, and lastly, *some weird pain in my upper abdomen that is kinda pulsating or throbbing.* antacids help a lot so I'm guessing it's an ulcer *now how can spice cause an ulcer other than by over eating?* I've been on numerous other medications and *worked on nuclear reactors in the navy so frankly, I don't blame any of this on spice...* -from “jusgotout”, Feb 2011
Japan laws regarding these substances

- JWH-018, CP 47,497, HU-210, Mephedrone, Piperazine, Methanon, Methanol and others are currently regulated.
- JWH-015, JWH-081, JWH-122, JWH-200, JWH-251, Methadrone, Plephedrone, others pending regulation.
Orders and Regulations

- **SECNAVINST 5300.28D**
  - The unlawful use by persons in the DON of controlled substance analogues, natural substances, chemicals propellants, and/or proscribed or over the counter (OTC) drugs, with intent to induce intoxication, is prohibited.

- **OPNAVINST 5350.4D**:
  - Drug abuse includes the wrongful use of designer drugs, OTC, anabolic steroids, as well as consumption of substances for other than their intended use (glue, air freshener, gasoline fume sniffing, herbal products…).
Orders and Regulations

- Purchase, possession, or use by DON personnel and dependents of Spice/herbal incense type products as well as several other substances is also prohibited by:
  
  - COMNAVFORJAPANINST 5820.17:
  - COMFLEACTINST 5830.1:
  - MARFORPAC Order 5355.2
  - MCBJO 5355.1
UCMJ

- **Article 92**: Failure to obey order or regulation
- **Article 134**: Possession, use, importation onto a military installation.
- **Article 112a**: Any person subject to this chapter who wrongfully uses, possesses, manufactures, distributes, imports into the customs territory of the United States, exports from the United States, or introduces into an installation, vessel, vehicle, or aircraft used by or under the control of the armed forces a substance described in subsection (b) shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.
U.S. Code (for civilians and in some cases military members (MEJA))

- 21 USC 841: Manufacture, distribute, possess with intent, etc...
- 21 USC 844: Simple Possession
- 21 USC 813: Federal Drug Analog Act
Lesser offenses for civilians

- Civilian Administrative Forum (CAF)
  - Agreement to perform community service hours
  - Or debarment
How can this effect readiness and safety?

*Bag of Spice and homemade pipe found on ship underway.*
Scope of the problem

NavyTimes

Senators say ‘spice’ use could affect readiness

By William H. McMichael - Staff writer
Posted : Monday Mar 21, 2011 12:38 PM EDT

The military’s struggle to come to grips with the marijuana-like synthetic cannabinoids, collectively known as “spice,” has raised alarm with two influential senators who say that the product is a “pose a risk to the operational readiness of our armed forces.”

In a letter sent Tuesday to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Sens. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., expressed particular concern over high-level spice bans by the Navy, reported in Navy Times and other news outlets, as well as a push to curtail the use of marijuana-like substances aboard the amphibious assault ship Bataan and at the Naval Academy. They also pointed to Navy statistics cited in one of the stories showing that 14 sailors had been arrested for using or being caught with spice during the first four months of the fiscal year.

NavyTimes

12th mid expelled over ‘spice’

By Sam Fehlinger - Staff writer
Posted : Thursday Mar 31, 2011 11:12 PM EDT

The Naval Academy expelled a 12th midshipman for smoking or peddling the marijuana-like drug “spice” Monday as part of a wide-ranging investigation, an academy official said Thursday.

The former midshipman was a female sophomore, academy spokesman Glenn J. Carpender said. Carpender declined to provide additional details, citing privacy concerns.

She is the first woman to be expelled for spice, according to Carpenter. Six other sophomores have been kicked out, as well as four juniors and one freshman.
NCIS Response

- Special Agents corroborate commercial spice suppliers & local commanders place establishments off limits
- Undercover operations w/ DON personnel
  - Buy walks, buy bust
  - Reverse sting operations
  - Joint Operations with Japanese counterparts-Narcotics Control Department, Customs, Prefecture Police
  - Investigations based on tips
- Over 100 cases presented for prosecution
To Report:

- USN Regulation 1137 – Obligation to Report Offenses:
  - Persons in the naval service will report, as soon as possible to superior authority all offenses under the UCMJ which come under their observation, except when such persons are themselves already criminally involved...

- NCISRA Yokosuka: Building 1997, 2nd Deck: 243-7535
- Tipline: nciistipline@ncis.navy.mil
- 1-800-264-6485
MCPON Public Service Announcement

DEＦＥＮＳＥMEDIAACTIVITY
ANACOSTIA

TITLE: MCPON/ Spice Designer Drug PSA

RUN TIME: 00:00:59:00

START: 22/02/11

KILL: 22/02/12

www.navy.mil