



# 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

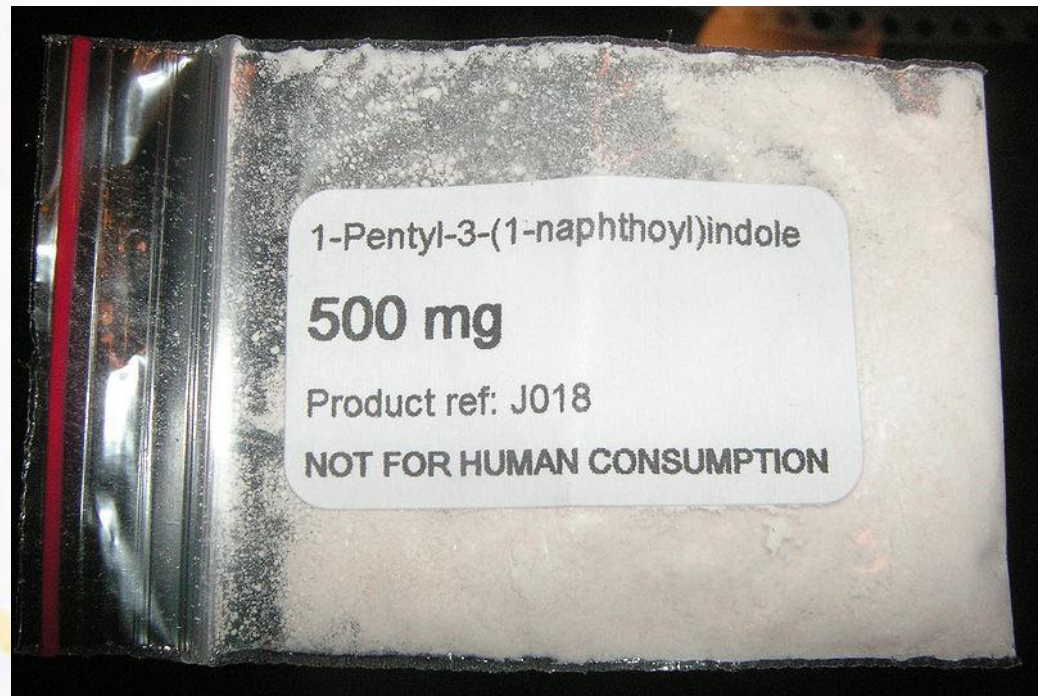
## ■ Price

- \$10 - \$90 per gram
- Determined by locale / availability

*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**

Star  Advertiser  
amend state  
the classifc

**York teen smokes  
Spice and nearly dies**

**Rushed to hospital after  
smoking Herbal Incense**

**Legal pot substitute 'spice' linked to Waikiki attempted murder**

 **ACTION 3 NEWS**  
OnStar | www.action3news.com

**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.)



Journal List > Dtsch Arztebl Int > v.106(27); Jul 2009

Dtsch Arztebl Int. 2009 July; 106(27): 464-467.

Published online 2009 July 3. doi: 10.3238/arztebl.2009.0464.

PMCID: PMC2719097

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Case Report

## Deutsches Ärzteblatt International

### Withdrawal Phenomena and Dependence Syndrome After the Consumption of "Spice Gold"

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Received November 24, 2008. Accepted March 12, 2009.

## From blog discussion on health problems related to Spice use...

- So ive 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 wasnt 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 caughed 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 deploymtn 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. Ive 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 doesnt change with spice smoking now, **ive 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 im guessing its an ulcer now how can spice cause an ulcer other than by over eating? ive been on numerous other medications and **worked on nuclear reactors in the navy so frankly, i dont 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

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2011/02/navy-16-bataan-sailors-discharged-for-use-of-spice-020311/>

### 16 Bataan sailors discharged for spice use

By William H. McMichael - Staff writer  
Posted : Thursday Feb 3, 2011 8:20:34 EST

Sixteen sailors assigned to the Norfolk-based amphibious assault ship *Bataan* are getting the boot for using or dealing the service-banned synthetic marijuana generally known as "spice," the Navy confirmed Thursday.

The busts follow an eight-week investigation launched in November aboard the huge warship, according to Lt. Cmdr. Bill Urban, spokesman for Surface Force Atlantic.

Fifteen of the sailors were given nonjudicial punishment for failing to obey the Navy's ban on spice and are or will be administratively discharged. Urban, correcting earlier information that all 16 had been so punished, subsequently reported that a 16th sailor was convicted at a summary court-martial aboard *Bataan* for failing to obey the ban, as well as for alcohol abuse and unauthorized absence and also is being discharged.

"The Navy has a zero-tolerance policy on drug abuse," Urban said in a statement. "Drug use

## STARS AND STRIPES

### Navy to separate 15 sailors in drug probe

By Peter G. Davis  
Naval Criminal Investigative Service  
Published: Feb. 3, 2011

WASHINGTON, March 2 — The Navy is separating 15 USS George Washington sailors as it investigates the use and distribution of banned synthetic drugs sold, mainly in Japan, off and on Tuesday.

Spice, tested by sensors on ships to be marijuana, because it is not illegal under U.S. federal law, and several other substances were raised on a June 25 order signed by Adm. John M. Flinn, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Japan. The order directs and extends a warning from the secretary of the Navy that ban of use of synthetic drugs, natural substances and chemicals "with the intent to induce intoxication, or to assist in the operation of the central nervous system."

During May and June, all USS George Washington sailors were investigated for use and distribution of spice, said Flinn spokeswoman Lt. Col. Michelle Reid.

Of the 15, 10 are in the process of separation under the drug policy. With other referrals from specifically some Spice, color distinction and other drugs, the drug fall within the order's scope, said Lt. Jonathan Flynn of the Navy Legal Service Office in Yokosuka.

Since the investigation, all sailors in Task Force have signed a form stating they are aware of the dangers and consequences of Spice and other drugs tested as "illegal highs," often a card.

Sailors and Marines could be prosecuted for violating that order and could also be prosecuted for related offenses like distribution of drugs.

"It's not an open secret," Flynn said. "But we have had some reported cases where SOFA personnel having much less than the use of these substances."

Use, possession and distribution of the substances listed in the order are prohibited under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Navy officials in Japan made the status of these agencies not are it subject to the UCMJ, but are subject to disciplinary action, which could result in being barred from base.

While the drugs in most cases are not considered controlled substances by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, their use has been found to be increasing number of states and foreign countries.

Several, but not all, U.S. and overseas bases have banned drugs like Spice and other distinctions.

The Marines banned the drugs last year in Okinawa and in Japan after reporting rising use.

"The used spice changed out of Chinese and gradually made to be more potent (for the Japanese market)," Flynn said.

Yokosuka Naval Base banned their use in December 2008, Flynn said.

Information regarding illegal use of the drugs is being included during base orientation here and out of 2012 and civilian Cmdr. Ron Smith.

## NavyTimes

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2011/03/military-spice-use-senators-letter-to-gates-032911w/>

### Senators say 'spice' use could affect readiness

By William H. McMichael - Staff writer  
Posted : Tuesday Mar 29, 2011 21:18:12 EDT

The military's struggle to come to grips with the marijuana-like synthetic cannabinoids collectively known as "spice" have raised alarms with two influential senators who say that the products "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-profile spice busts by the Navy, reported in Navy Times and other news outlets, on spice abuse 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 151 sailors had been accused of using or been caught with spice during the first four months of the fiscal year.

## NavyTimes

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2011/03/navy-academy-12th-mid-expelled-spice-033111w/>

### 12th mid expelled over 'spice'

By Sam Fellman - Staff writer  
Posted : Thursday Mar 31, 2011 11:11:28 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 Cmdr. Joe Carpenter said. Carpenter 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deck: 243-7535
- Tipline: [ncistipline@ncis.navy.mil](mailto:ncistipline@ncis.navy.mil)
- 1-800-264-6485



# MCPON Public Service Announcement

The logo for Defense Media Activity Anacostia is a circular seal. It features a blue outer ring with the text "DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY" at the top and "ANACOSTIA" at the bottom. Inside the ring is a blue circle with a white anchor and the letters "U.S." in white.

**DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY  
ANACOSTIA**

**TITLE:** MCPON/ Spice Designer Drug PSA

**RUN TIME:** 00:00:59:00

**START:** 22/02/11

**KILL:** 22/02/12

[www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil)