1. **Purpose.** To implement the Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) Program within the Department of the Navy (DON), per references (a) through (l), and establish responsibility for program execution within DON.

2. **Policy and Scope.** DON’s policy is to provide DON personnel and their family members with quality of life programs and resources to promote strong family bonds. These programs and resources ultimately enhance combat readiness by strengthening personal and family readiness.

   a. **DEFY is a voluntary program.** Voluntary participation is critical to establishing a lasting, positive mentor-protégé relationship. Local commands shall not mandate or in any way force participation of servicemembers.

   b. **Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Personal Readiness and Community Support Branch (N135) is designated as the DEFY Program Executive Agent responsible for all aspects of the program, including central management of all DON DEFY programs.**

3. **Background.** Since its inception in 1993, DEFY has expanded to include programs at Navy and Marine Corps bases worldwide.
On 1 October 2005, DEFY was realigned with CNO’s Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NADAP) Program Office (N1351) to provide better support and access for the Fleet.

4. Information

   a. Our Nation’s youth, particularly those aged 9-12 years, face significant negative pressures that encourage substance abuse, gang involvement, criminal activity, and anti-social behavior. The children of military families are no exception. While there are encouraging downward trends in the rates of substance abuse, there is much more work to be done to equip our youth with the life skills needed to become successful, productive members of society.

   b. Prevention is key to avoiding the consequences of negative behaviors and their impact on combat readiness. Prevention programs require a multi-faceted approach that covers substance abuse related issues, as well as life skills, to strengthen youth protective factors. This approach must be a collaborative effort between base resources, including, but not limited to Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR), base security, base chapel, and child and youth development programs. Local commanders are strongly encouraged to engage local resources as appropriate.

   c. In 1996, DON partnered with the Office of Weed and Seed, Department of Justice (DOJ), to provide DEFY to civilian youth at that Department’s discretion. In 2000, DON partnered with the Department of the Air Force to provide DEFY to U.S. Air Force family youth at that Department’s discretion.

5. DEFY Mission. DEFY is a catalyst for increasing community participation and commitment to youth. Its goal is to produce 9-12 year-olds who have the character, leadership, and confidence to engage in positive, healthy lifestyles as drug-free citizens. DEFY is a preemptive prevention program that delivers strong kids, in strong families, supporting a ready Fleet and U.S. Marine Corps Operating Forces.

6. Funding

   a. Funding for the DEFY Program is provided for in the Office of the Secretary of Defense – Counter Narcotics (OSD-CN)
Central Transfer Account annual budget. Funding requests for local programs are reviewed and approved by the DEFY Program Office (CNO (N135)).

b. Local funding requests approved by the DEFY Program Office are forwarded to CNO (N135) comptroller for funds disbursement as appropriate.

c. Reference (l) allows use of appropriated funds (APF) to purchase meals "when the agency is carrying out some particular statutory function where the necessary relationship can be established." As there is a direct relationship between the presence of DEFY adult volunteer staff and ensuring the safety of DEFY youth participants at all times (to include minimum staff to youth ratio), it is deemed necessary for APF to be utilized to purchase meals for those DEFY adult volunteers and staff during DEFY program activities. Local program coordinators will ensure that meals provided all staff are comparable to those of youth participants and do not exceed local per diem rates.

7. **Inter-agency Cooperation**

a. To provide coordinated delivery and foster inter-agency cooperation, the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) was formed. The PCC members are designated by the appropriate authority within each respective department or agency. The DEFY Program Manager is designated as the Chair for the PCC.

b. The purpose of the PCC is to provide a forum through which partnering agencies can provide feedback to the DEFY Program Manager, discuss program operations and administration, identify common trends and issues that require modification to program operations or materials, and to discuss changes to the program that impact partnering agencies.

c. The DEFY Program Manager will initiate any inter-agency agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other documentation required to enhance collaborative efforts among PCC member agencies.

8. **Responsibilities and Action**

a. CNO (N135) shall:
(1) Develop and maintain program policy, provide guidance, establish and maintain standard operating procedures for all DON DEFY programs.

(2) Provide overall program oversight and management, including oversight of all program funding.

(3) Monitor program operation to ensure compliance with established policies, procedures, and guidelines.

(4) Develop and provide technical assistance to local DEFY programs.

b. Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Personal and Family Readiness Division (MR), will establish policy for Marine Corps installations interested in implementing a DEFY program. Marine Corps installations shall coordinate DEFY program implementation through MR Division who shall in turn coordinate with CNO (N135) as appropriate.

c. CNO (N3AT) shall function as the DEFY Program Resource Sponsor; coordinating appropriate funding requirements in Navy’s counternarcotic budget submission, via approval by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Military Personnel Policy), to OSD-CN.

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