

Whirlpool

ADF Drug Testing

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last updated –
posted 2016-Mar-2, 11:54 pm AEST
posted 2016-Mar-2, 11:54 pm AEST

User #685398 3 posts

[Brisbane195](#)

I'm new here, please be nice

reference: whrl.pl/RehOBi

posted 2015-Apr-28, 12:38 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehOBi

posted 2015-Apr-28, 12:38 pm AEST

O.P.

Hey there, I have a couple of questions and I was hoping to get answers that are a little less vague than what google told me. I have this friend who recently was accepted into the ADF, passed the assessment day and the drug test and what not, but he has some outstanding medical issues, once he's sorted those he just wanted to know if there would be another drug test before training, and if so he was wondering an estimate for how long it'd take him to be clean. See he hasn't smoked weed before and did so a few times over the past two weeks, about 8 cones or so all up over the past two weeks, he's only 61kgs and 180cms to quite lanky and very little fat. Thanks in advance for your help!

User #639980 1672 posts

[thrille1](#)

Whirlpool Enthusiast

reference: whrl.pl/RehOEI

posted 2015-Apr-28, 12:54 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehOEI

posted 2015-Apr-28, 12:54 pm AEST

[Brisbane195](#) writes...

[friend](#)

"friend"

See he hasn't smoked weed before and did so a few times over the past two weeks, about 8 cones or so all up over the past two weeks,

Bad time for your "friend" to do this for "the first time".

Seriously though, just stop doing it and wait and see what happens. Doesn't matter whether anyone says you'll be fine or not, it's not going to change the outcome.

User #267608 2277 posts

[woofiedog](#)

Whirlpool Forums Addict

reference: whrl.pl/RehOGH

posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:04 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehOGH

posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:04 pm AEST

[Brisbane195](#) writes...

See he hasn't smoked weed before and did so a few times over the past two weeks, about 8 cones or so all up over the past two weeks,

So let me get this right you have never smoked weed before but once accepted into ADF thought you would try it?

Yes I meant to say you because you are asking for you and we aren't that stupid to think it's your friend, unless you're that high you think there is 2 of you.

User #685398 3 posts

[Brisbane195](#)

I'm new here, please be nice

reference: whrl.pl/RehOG4

posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:05 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehOG4

posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:05 pm AEST

O.P.

Helpful replies would be appreciated as opposed to judging ones, I'm sure he sees the error in his ways, but what's done is done, so answers to the actual questions as opposed to being berated would be appreciated.

User #685398 3 posts

[Brisbane195](#)

I'm new here, please be nice

reference: whrl.pl/RehOHC

posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:07 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehOHC

posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:07 pm AEST
O.P.

And he's not looking for answers from people saying it'll be fine, seeing as there are medical issues outstanding the application process is currently at a standstill so he can bide for time if need be.

User #655464 139 posts
[ChummyMate](#)
Participant
reference: whrl.pl/RehOLg
posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:24 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehOLg
posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:24 pm AEST

[Brisbane195 writes...](#)

[Helpful replies would be appreciated as opposed to judging ones](#)

Honestly mate, what did you expect? Come on WP and admit you smoked pot just after an ADF entrance acceptance and asking how you can get away with it....ah sorry, how your "friend" can get away with it.

No-one can know the timeline for complex biochemical and metabolic pathways the THC will take in your "friend." It depends on a lot of factors, but generally if he isn't a frequent smoker and has a healthy liver it will pass through his system fairly quickly.

Just ring up anonymously and ask if they redo the drug test.

User #455596 928 posts
[bjs65](#)
Whirlpool Enthusiast
reference: whrl.pl/RehOMP
posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:30 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehOMP
posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:30 pm AEST

[ChummyMate writes...](#)

[Just ring up anonymously and ask if they redo the drug test](#)

No need to do it anonymously – they won't know who his friend is! ;-)

User #426764 1440 posts
[Jubby](#)
Whirlpool Enthusiast

reference: whrl.pl/RehONQ
posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:34 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehONQ
posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:34 pm AEST

There's been lots of cases where people do stupid things after passing the assessment day. I believe they do another medical on enlistment day.

User #510160 12430 posts
[totallyfree](#)
Section Moderator
reference: whrl.pl/RehOQ8
posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:47 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehOQ8
posted 2015-Apr-28, 1:47 pm AEST

Depends on the unit. I did a lot of drug tests in initial training because, IME, new recruits are likely to have experimented 'one last time' prior to joining. We also got drug tested after coming back from leave, breath tested a fair bit and, being female, pregnancy tested every time we had vaccinations or medicals.

Absolutely nothing your friend can do (assuming they don't have the integrity to confess...)

User #639980 1672 posts
[thrille1](#)
Whirlpool Enthusiast
reference: whrl.pl/RehOX4
posted 2015-Apr-28, 2:07 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehOX4
posted 2015-Apr-28, 2:07 pm AEST

[Brisbane195](#) writes...

And he's not looking for answers from people saying it'll be fine, seeing as there are medical issues outstanding the application process is currently at a standstill so he can bide for time if need be.

So what answers are you looking for? As I said earlier, there's nothing you can do but stop taking drugs and wait and see if there is another test and whether or not you'll pass.

User #620413 227 posts
[mumstar](#)
Forum Regular
reference: whrl.pl/RehPDF

posted 2015-Apr-28, 5:10 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehPDF
posted 2015-Apr-28, 5:10 pm AEST

Not sure how long it is in your system but i can advise your friend that they also do drug testing while you are training at Kapooka, and have a zero alcohol tolerance.

User #669498 517 posts
[T2KU](#)
Whirlpool Enthusiast
reference: whrl.pl/RehPEM
posted 2015-Apr-28, 5:16 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehPEM
posted 2015-Apr-28, 5:16 pm AEST

Your 'friend' is an idiot.

THC can be tested in hair for up to 3 months. I do not think that the ADF would bother with that testing regiment though. Saliva depends on too many variables and urine is about a week depending on how much you smoked.

In saying that ... if your friend is serious about his enlistment he should stop being an idiot and cease smoking.

User #593383 302 posts
[lolcano](#)
Forum Regular
reference: whrl.pl/RehPQ9
posted 2015-Apr-28, 6:23 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehPQ9
posted 2015-Apr-28, 6:23 pm AEST

It's a silly thing to do probably but you are unlikely to be tested soon. In seven years I was never tested besides the initial test before joining.

User #650302 51 posts
[ClearedHot](#)
Participant
reference: whrl.pl/RehPTE
posted 2015-Apr-28, 6:32 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehPTE
posted 2015-Apr-28, 6:32 pm AEST

Sadly, I think your friend is safe.

Having said that – your friend has demonstrated extremely poor decision making. I genuinely hope your friend, for some unforeseen reason, is caught out and never has the privilege of Service; I hope your friend and I never share the same profession.

User #678417 1700 posts

[The Swain](#)

Whirlpool Enthusiast

reference: whrl.pl/RehQmY

posted 2015-Apr-28, 8:54 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehQmY

posted 2015-Apr-28, 8:54 pm AEST

As someone who has regularly conducted random and targeted drug tests in the ADF I hope your "mate" wakes up to "himself" or his career in the ADF is going to be extremely short.

ADF Policy is a MINIMUM of 25% of all personnel are to be tested annually, this is the bare minimum, some Commands are quite happy to go right up to 100%. All personnel means from Recruit through to Brigadier, I would suggest that if your "friend" abstains from this point on little damage has been done. He may be subject to another drug test prior to enlistment depending on the time frame it takes to sort out his "medical issues", still low level THC, a week, possibly two to bring it down under threshold levels (50 ppm from memory).

I have seen readings from habitual smokers (above 1500) who still had detectable levels 3 months after ceasing, hair samples would probably persist even longer, don't get me wrong, I have no issues with Civilians who wish to have a toke or two on weekends, but ADF policy is ZERO tolerance, once you sign that paper it is a term of your continued employment that you give the Gorilla grass a miss. If your "friend" wants to smoke weed - Tell 'him' NOT to join the ADF, they don't want another administrative burden.

Concur with above post!

User #624111 189 posts

[Rubisco](#)

In the penalty box

reference: whrl.pl/RehQrz

posted 2015-Apr-28, 9:16 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehQrz

posted 2015-Apr-28, 9:16 pm AEST

Tigere won't be another drug test, probably for quite some time.

In saying that, mate, there is a whole thread here for people trying there best to get into the adf and you seem to have done that and then gone and done this. I hope you learn from you mistake and turn out to be a great soldier

User #430592 2045 posts

[PrunesStool](#)

Whirlpool Forums Addict

reference: whrl.pl/RehQEv

posted 2015-Apr-28, 10:19 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehQEv

posted 2015-Apr-28, 10:19 pm AEST

When i was in the army, they hated drug users to death. We would be randomly tested and at the recruitment stage we got tested many times. Weed should leave the body in about 6 week time. Your friend will prbably get caught at some stage. Also, he is on the skinny side. They told me to gain few kilos more as i was similar weight and height to this friend.

He will prbably have no problem now, but tell him this is a poor decision if he wants to be in the defence force. Drugs will kill your military career abruptly. They have zero tolerance.

User #608062 246 posts

[pdean8](#)

Forum Regular

reference: whrl.pl/RehQG7

posted 2015-Apr-28, 10:34 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehQG7

posted 2015-Apr-28, 10:34 pm AEST

if you really want, you can buy Drug tests from the pharmacy and check "cough your friend

User #592041 73 posts

[q98929](#)

Participant

reference: whrl.pl/RehQKK

posted 2015-Apr-28, 11:00 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehQKK

posted 2015-Apr-28, 11:00 pm AEST

Brisbane195

Young fella, in a worst case scenario, think the Gulf Wars, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan all where we were recently involved, we depend on each other for our survival. Armed conflict is not a joke!

As others have previously stated, the ADF has a zero-tolerance policy to non-medically prescribed drugs. Drug abuse is the quickest method of terminating an otherwise successful career.

Quit while you are ahead son. I sincerely hope you do and continue on to an enjoyable and successful career in the ADF.

Sincerely
Retired WO1.

User #560833 3481 posts

[finser](#)

In the penalty box

reference: whrl.pl/RehTmY

posted 2015-Apr-29, 1:40 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehTmY

posted 2015-Apr-29, 1:40 pm AEST

Regardless of whether you get away with it or not, don't make it a habit. Drugs are rampant in ADF just like they are in society. Sooner or later most people get caught, depending how critical your skill set is will determine what the consequences are no matter what the "zero tolerance policy" is supposed to enact.

Even if they don't get caught officially most of the time word gets out that they are a druggie and promotion/posting opportunities sometime start to drop off based on that alone.

Join the ADF don't do drugs
Don't join the ADF do what you want

As said earlier no one really can determine how long your gonna test positive for, that early in your career you'll be out and most likely never joining again.

User #657127 28 posts

[lost at sea](#)

I'm new here, please be nice

reference: whrl.pl/RehTCq

posted 2015-Apr-29, 2:42 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehTCq

posted 2015-Apr-29, 2:42 pm AEST

i did 6 years in the ADF, i was piss tested only once in that time, including initial training.

don't kid yourselves, the drug use/abuse culture is rampant and in full swing with personnel in the ADF, whether it be recreational use or performance (roids) enhancing it is going on everywhere.

i never saw anyone "on drugs" at work, but after hours it's the same as any other social network for younger people.

User #391418 516 posts

[juzza88](#)

Whirlpool Enthusiast

reference: whrl.pl/RehVfq
posted 2015-Apr-29, 5:37 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehVfq
posted 2015-Apr-29, 5:37 pm AEST

I read somewhere the Vietcong were handing out hashish to our soldiers.. seems like they did alright? LOL

User #525452 1416 posts
[PorcelainTea](#)
Whirlpool Enthusiast
reference: whrl.pl/RehVgN
posted 2015-Apr-29, 5:45 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehVgN
posted 2015-Apr-29, 5:45 pm AEST

Unless you smoke every day, the half life of it in your system is pretty low...

.. So I've heard.

User #94386 8950 posts
[Yobbo](#)
Whirlpool Forums Addict
reference: whrl.pl/RehVmn
posted 2015-Apr-29, 6:14 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehVmn
posted 2015-Apr-29, 6:14 pm AEST

Its not just the ADF your friends needs to be worried about. A lot of jobs require random drug testing. Someone at my work was instantly dismissed for returning a positive to THC.

I guess if your friend wants to work in a supermarket or petrol station he might be ok.

User #685008 112 posts
[Caligrapher](#)
Participant
reference: whrl.pl/RehVzd
posted 2015-Apr-29, 7:12 pm AEST
ref: whrl.pl/RehVzd
posted 2015-Apr-29, 7:12 pm AEST

Very good chance this mate of yours will not even make it into the ADF.

User #678417 1700 posts
[The Swain](#)

Whirlpool Enthusiast

reference: whrl.pl/RehV6y

posted 2015-Apr-29, 10:01 pm AEST

edited 2015-Apr-29, 10:22 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/RehV6y

posted 2015-Apr-29, 10:01 pm AEST (edited 2015-Apr-29, 10:22 pm AEST)

[finser writes...](#)

Sooner or later most people get caught, depending how critical your skill set is will determine what the consequences are no matter what the "zero tolerance policy" is supposed to enact.

Correct, I was at one time under the impression that 'Zero Tolerance' meant, you're out of here, but when I saw individuals that I had personally detected or who had returned a positive test result remain within the RAN I asked the question, "What does Zero Tolerance actually mean?"

The answer I received was, that for any drug offences and/or confirmed positives returned under testing, that the offender WOULD be charged under the Defence Force Discipline Act (DFDA) and would receive punishment IAW the act.

These punishments could be stoppage of leave, monetary fine, restriction of privileges up to and including an administrative discharge depending on the severity of the offence and the Navy's investment in the individual in way of qualifications attained, time served, return of service obligations and the requirements of the Service. All of these punishments were concurrent with the member being placed on the 'Random Urinalysis Program' (RUP) where the sailor was subjected to targeted testing at intervals not exceeding 3 month for a period of either 12 or 18 months. If the member was posted to another ship or establishment during this period their new command would be informed and RUP testing continued at the new location. Any positive result returned whilst under RUP usually resulted in Discharge RNIN (Retention Not in the Navy's Interest).

A Recruit or unqualified member would more than likely be Discharged first offence as the ADF has not yet invested a lot of time and/or money in them. Minor "one of" offences by qualified personnel a mixture of above scale of punishments, Officers/Senior NCO's would have to do a lot of talking.

That is the ADF Policy (as I understand it) on Zero Tolerance.

So the bottom line is Zero Tolerance means that for any offence involving illicit substances there are repercussions that may/could/will affect your future employment within the ADF. In other words the ADF is NOT the place for even social drug use.

PS. A positive result will result in a downgrade of a members security clearance so they may be unable to fulfil their core function by no longer being able to work with classified information. This alone can affect promotion courses and ultimately the hip pocket.

User #686779 2 posts

[Simonsaysez](#)

I'm new here, please be nice

reference: whrl.pl/ReilGQ

posted 2015-May-8, 5:40 am AEST

ref: whrl.pl/ReilGQ

posted 2015-May-8, 5:40 am AEST

I would immediately report to a Dr and say you ingested a cookie at a friends house and felt weird and suspect it to be a weed cookie. The Dr can take note of it.

There is a caveat though: I'd only do this if your story is 100% true. And frankly, I doubt it is. No newb hits the bong... and 8 times? Sounds very, very sketchy to me

User #29966 236 posts

[aXi\\$te](#)

Forum Regular

reference: whrl.pl/Reipzl

posted 2015-May-9, 12:39 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/Reipzl

posted 2015-May-9, 12:39 pm AEST

Can tell you right now, being in my position in Army, currently if you get a positive, you get a whole bunch of restrictions put on your employment (no access to weapons, no driving vehicles, no operating dangerous machinery, no security access) pending a lab analysis of your test.

If that comes back positive, you will be handed a Notice to show cause for Termination. This gives you 30 days to reply with the reason/s you think you shouldn't be kicked out.

In the last 3 years I have watched several positives come back, not a single one is still in Army.

Not even "Oh I was at a mates party and they smoke weed, I must have ingested second hand smoke"

If you go to someone and report you think that has occurred, or if you actually take a drug and then report yourself BEFORE you get caught on a Random test, Army will help you get clean, stay clean and keep you employed.. However this only works once. Second time occurrence, you're getting the boot.

User #720705 1 posts

[Angel8693](#)

I'm new here, please be nice

reference: whrl.pl/ReyoBr

posted 2016-Feb-16, 8:51 am AEST

ref: whrl.pl/ReyoBr

posted 2016-Feb-16, 8:51 am AEST

All of the replies you have received should resonate the same message but unfortunately they don't. If you have been accepted or not the navy doesn't take nor do they want known drug users. The fact "your friend" had never done it before them tried it knowing he was accepted proves they are a risk taker with little to no regard for themselves or the lives of others. You or your friend should not be in the defence force. I know I certainly wouldn't want to be serving next to you/them. Take a look at your maturity levels and levels of your friends. You're asking a public forum how to get out of testing positive into the defence force. An organisation that protects and serves this country. You need to have a think about your priorities and those of the company you hold. Defence has no drug policy for a reason. If you can't see how stupid your approach at having this question answered is then you need to fill out an application to a new job which requires little to no brain activity. I'm sorry but I don't want you or your friend wearing the uniform.

User #533277 28 posts

[littlepiggy](#)

I'm new here, please be nice

reference: whrl.pl/Reyq0c

posted 2016-Feb-16, 10:31 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/Reyq0c

posted 2016-Feb-16, 10:31 pm AEST

It is very possible your friend may be drug-tested – although if he is lucky, he will get away with it (I don't feel happy writing that – I think it's a privilege to serve, and I really hope your friend feels a terrible amount of shame).

As for zero tolerance to drugs – whilst someone might not be immediately kicked out, they may go through administrative or disciplinary action (as one previous poster advised – a Notice to Show Cause would normally be the start of administrative action). The decision about what action is taken is based on a number of factors including likelihood of success (and appropriateness) of any action, in addition to duty of care and other obligations (both towards the service person and fellow members of the unit).

Any action is time-consuming and takes away from the professional performance of people up and down the chain of command who have better things to do – like focus on the fine art of honing their skills to keep Australia safe if they're ever called upon to do so.

Even if a person isn't kicked out through administrative or disciplinary action, you can be very sure it'll be a career-limiting move and will impact on their career progression (e.g. how quickly they'll move through the ranks, and possibly even the employment opportunities available to them).

User #721136 57 posts

[mck13](#)

Participant

reference: whrl.pl/Rey3JM

posted 2016-Mar-1, 8:59 am AEST

ref: whrl.pl/Rey3JM

posted 2016-Mar-1, 8:59 am AEST

So my question to this is, on the application before the YOU session. Do you say that you have smoked weed before or not? I assume that lying wouldn't go down very well if they asked you in the interviews!

I did it as a teenager but haven't for around 10 years!

User #312610 133 posts

[cvZ59](#)

Forum Regular

reference: whrl.pl/Rey3R2

posted 2016-Mar-1, 9:50 am AEST

ref: whrl.pl/Rey3R2

posted 2016-Mar-1, 9:50 am AEST

[mck13](#) writes...

So my question to this is, on the application before the YOU session. Do you say that you have smoked weed before or not? I assume that lying wouldn't go down very well if they asked you in the interviews!

I did it as a teenager but haven't for around 10 years!

If you think about this realistically, saying "No I have never ever done any drugs." is probably more of a concern than someone who has 10 years ago. Odds are, they are lying... and recruiters know this.

You should admit to it, it is not going to negatively influence any career in ADF or otherwise that you did weed 10 years ago.

User #98240 432 posts

[Mick Dundee](#)

Forum Regular

reference: whrl.pl/Rey3TM

posted 2016-Mar-1, 9:57 am AEST

ref: whrl.pl/Rey3TM

posted 2016-Mar-1, 9:57 am AEST

Far out, give the person a go. I joined in 84 and discharged in 2013 and I left as a bloody crusty WO1. I had a three year good behavior bond, I smoked weed prior to joining and no school certificate. Told them so at my interview. I was asked why told him the truth and was then told I was successful and he liked a bloke with a bit of spirit. I

stopped and remained and so why cant this person? Yeah yeah its changed as I have been told (I was as at kappooka for some time..) but it takes all sorts to be a good soldier. No one here seems to make mistakes?

User #721136 57 posts

[mck13](#)

Participant

reference: whrl.pl/Rey3XB

posted 2016-Mar-1, 10:13 am AEST

ref: whrl.pl/Rey3XB

posted 2016-Mar-1, 10:13 am AEST

[cvZ59](#) writes...

If you think about this realistically, saying "No I have never ever done any drugs." is probably more of a concern than someone who has 10 years ago. Odds are, they are lying... and recruiters know this.

You should admit to it, it is not going to negatively influence any career in ADF or otherwise that you did weed 10 years ago.

That's what I thought. I think lying and trying to get away with it would be way worse. YOU session in 16 days!!! Can't wait!

User #701231 284 posts

[Brrttt](#)

Forum Regular

reference: whrl.pl/Rey82O

posted 2016-Mar-2, 11:54 pm AEST

ref: whrl.pl/Rey82O

posted 2016-Mar-2, 11:54 pm AEST

When i joined they had asked if i had done drugs before, admitted to having smoked weed in highschool and taking ecstasy, got accepted no dramas.

I probably got tested about 4 times in 4 years and had no issues.

But like someone mentioned earlier, drug use in the ADF is just as high as civi street with the same age group. 18 to 25 year olds are going to do it no matter what there job people will always run the risk of getting caught.

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