

health

Hundreds of Australian soldiers busted for taking cocaine, cannabis, ecstasy and ice

HUNDREDS of Australian soldiers have failed routine drug tests and been busted for taking cocaine, cannabis, ecstasy and other illicit substances.

Staff writers and AAP **OCTOBER 3, 2016** 4:52PM



The ADF has a zero-tolerance policy on the use of illicit drugs by its members. *Source: News Corp Australia*

HUNDREDS of Australian soldiers have returned positive drug test results in the past four years with the vast majority given the boot, Defence documents reveal.

The documents, released under freedom of information, show 132 soldiers recorded positive test readings for illicit drugs in 2012-13, 101 in 2013-14, 102 in 2014-15 and 85 in the year to June 2016.

Ecstasy remains the drug most commonly detected, with it found in some form in 96 tests.

That was followed by cannabis (80 positive readings), amphetamines (65), steroids (64) and methamphetamines (57).

Just four were busted for use of opiates, with 22 each for use of cocaine and benzodiazepines.

Under Defence's tough on drugs policy only one soldier escaped any penalty. Thirteen remain in the army on up to three years formal warning and seven cases from this year remain to be determined.

The rest were discharged from the army.



The ADF conducts random drug testing of ADF members. *Source: News Limited*

The ADF has a “zero-tolerance policy” on the use of illicit drugs by its members, according to its official ‘Recreational Drugs and Illicit and Prohibited drugs’ brochure.

“This means that any member found to be using illicit drugs will be required to ‘show cause’ why they should be permitted to remain in the ADF,” it reads.

The ADF conducts random drug testing of ADF members.

“Some of the drugs included within the illicit drugs category remain detectable in urine for some time after use, so a person could return a positive test days after they have used a drug,” according to the ADF.

The news comes just days after it was revealed that some 570 members of Britain's Armed Forces have been busted for drug-taking this year alone — around two a day.

Figures showed 220 Army, Navy and RAF personnel were discharged after the compulsory tests, The Sun reported.

There were positive results for cocaine, cannabis, ecstasy and steroids across the military.

The Army recorded 490 positive tests, with around 180 squaddies discharged this year.

More than 300 had taken cocaine, 50 were found with ecstasy in their system, 90 had taken cannabis and up to 10 had taken steroids.

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Source: <https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/hundreds-of-australian-soldiers-busted-for-taking-cocaine-cannabis-ecstasy-and-ice/news-story/7dff9a8b3fa5b1f600e391cb2b1ef00c>