

## **The Do's and Don'ts of Smart Testing**

**Listed below are some Do's and Don'ts of Smart testing that commanders should utilize:**

### **The Do's of Smart Testing**

1. Test personnel on a back-to-back basis
2. Perform weekend or holiday sweeps. These can be easily accomplished at the unit safety briefs prior to holidays or long weekends
3. Pre and post deployment testing. Should be done prior to any extended deployment and upon return to the garrison.
4. Test during field exercises. Extended time without the threat of testing is an open invitation to the use of illicit drugs. There are numerous ways that testing in a field environment can be accomplished:
  1. Chow line; test every third or fourth person in line.
  2. POL Point; test every third or fourth vehicle's occupants.
5. Test at the end of the duty day. Use the recall formation as a means of assemblage.
6. Do testing throughout the entire month. Vary the collection days, for example, not just Thursdays, and not just during the beginning or ending weeks of a month. Remember the golden rule of Smart Testing is to be unpredictable in the way your unit tests.

### **The Don'ts of Smart Testing**

1. Do not under any circumstances ask for volunteers. This may invalidate the randomization of the collection process and could lead to a challenge or defeat if taken to court.
2. Do not post testing dates on the training schedule; this defeats the purpose of testing unpredictability.
3. Do not let "shy bladders" off the hook. This is one of the ploys that illicit drug users have used in the past to avoid detection. Always provide liquid and a reasonable time limit for the collection. If a soldier has not been able to provide a specimen, then contact the unit commander for guidance. A medical evaluation to determine if a medical condition is precluding the specimen collection may be needed.
4. Do not announce testing the day before. Prior notification allows soldiers to dilute and flush their systems thus avoiding detection.
5. Do not announce the impending testing of a unit by having the UPL walk through the unit area with the necessary collection supplies. If at all possible, IBTC's should allow the units to maintain enough supplies to be able to test 100% of their respective units at any given time. Re-supply at turn-in of collected specimens.
6. Do not stop testing because it is the end of the duty day and you want to go home. Stay until all selected personnel are tested.