

# FIVE *BY* FIVE

22nd. SIGNAL BRIGADE

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## Drugs: Survey conducted throughout Brigade

By Jim Koenig

Drugs are being used in the 22nd Signal Brigade. It's common knowledge, it's a fact and everyone knows it.

But drug use is no more prevalent here than any other unit in the Army, says Mr. Craig Curtiss, Clinical Supervisor for the Community Counseling Center. Curtiss also believes that soldiers in general are not using drugs more than their civilian counterparts. Drug Abuse put plain and simple is a problem of society.

Curtis, a former enlisted man, who served three years as a Behavioral Science Specialist, estimates that 50 to 75 percent of Brigade Soldiers 25 and under are "occasional" Hashish/Marijuana users. He also stated there was some hard drug use but added "it isn't a big problem here".

The easygoing and relaxed counselor who had a Bachelors degree in Psychology while in the Army, and earned his Masters after he was discharged, states, "One danger in a person using drugs is when they do it because of stress, boredom or problems." Curtis went on to say that "Eventually they rely on the drug to make them feel good. By doing so, he continued, "you treat the symptom but not the problem."

In testimony last year before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the former director of the National Institute on



Drug Abuse, Dr. Robert DuPont, said he once considered marijuana relatively harmless but has since changed his mind after recent medical research was completed.

### DRUG SURVEY

Last month the FIVE by FIVE contacted two former brigade drug users and through those persons a survey was passed out among drug users in each Battalion and HHC, Brigade. Some of the questions were: How often do you smoke marijuana/hashish? Why do you use drugs? And what do you think of the Army's new program to spot marijuana users through Urinalysis.

The survey results and other drug information can be found on pages 6 and 7.

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