

# DID YOU KNOW FACT?

## SPICE



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Spice is a name brand and also a generic term for a large family of chemically unrelated "synthetic cannabinoids" functionally and biologically similar to THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

These chemicals are typically found in powder form or are dissolved in appropriate solvents, such as acetone, before being sprayed on plant material often contained in packages labeled as "herbal incense" and smoked by users.

Short term effects include loss of control, lack of pain response, increased agitation, pale skin, seizures, vomiting, profuse sweating, uncontrolled / spastic body movements, elevated blood pressure, heart rate and palpitations. The onset of this drug is 3-5 minutes, and the duration of the high is 1-8 hours.

But what may be of the greatest concern is a kind of brain-body disconnect. This is where you may see seizures, a lack of pain response or uncontrolled/ spastic body movements.



The American Association of Poison Control Centers reported 4,500 calls involving synthetic marijuana toxicity from 2010 to 2011, according to an AAP news release .

DDR has an open door policy. Please call or stop by if you have any questions, concerns, or are in need of drug prevention educational materials.

Signs of synthetic marijuana abuse include agitation, excessive sweating, inability to speak, restlessness and aggression. The drugs also cause "euphoric and psychoactive effects" similar to those caused by marijuana. These symptoms require immediate medical attention.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recently announced it is extending its ban on synthetic marijuana for another six months. In March 2011, the DEA temporarily banned five chemicals whose effects mimic marijuana. The DEA said it was outlawing the chemicals to protect health and safety.

## NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The use of designer synthetic chemicals, such as Spice, and other intoxicating substances, other than alcohol and tobacco, are strictly prohibited for Airmen according to Air Force Instruction 44-120, Military Drug Demand Reduction Program, and AFI 44-121, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program . Punishable under Article 92 of the UCMJ.

Not only is the use of these synthetic-cannabinoids illegal for Airmen, it can also be extremely dangerous . Studies have shown that the concentration of the chemicals varies, even within the same brand. The chemicals are typically much more potent than THC, and the number and type of chemicals and their concentration varies considerably in these unregulated products, The side effects, including hallucinations, rapid heart rate, paranoia, agitation and vomiting, may have long-term health consequences. That's why Air Force officials have focused efforts on deterring and enforcing the policies against using Spice chemicals.

