

# CRIME PREVENTION

**ALERT** | November 2025

Authorized for widest release without restrictions.

## Kratom: A Lethal Threat in Disguise — Banned for U.S. Service Members

Possession, distribution, and use of kratom by U.S. Service Members is **PROHIBITED** by Army Regulation 600-85. Violations can result in significant penalties under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

### What is Kratom?

- Kratom leaves from a tropical tree in Southeast Asia were traditionally chewed and used as a stimulant to increase alertness.
- Kratom products have become popular as an opioid-like substitute for recreational use.
- Becoming popular in the U.S. in various forms: pills, vape juices, resins, beverages like energy drinks, seltzers, herbal drinks.
- Signs of use: talkativeness, extreme energy, larger doses have a sedative effect.

### Why is Kratom So Dangerous?

**America's next opioid crisis is sitting on store shelves in gas stations and convenience stores marketed as a 'natural' product!<sup>1</sup>**

- Synthetic kratom is designed to be **many times more potent than morphine!**
- There are increasing reports of dependency, withdrawals, overdose and even death.
- Products labeled as 'natural' kratom, 'spiked' or 'enhanced' may contain 7-OH concentrations 500% higher than a kratom leaf.
- Street names include 7-Hydroxy, 7-OHMG and '7.'
- Poison control calls due to kratom use have more than doubled in just a few years.
- Kratom products, including 7-OH, are not safe to use to treat pain, anxiety or depression.
- Do not consume anything suspected of containing kratom.
- Kratom's potential deadly effects increase when combined with alcohol.

### Legal Implications for Service Members

**Prohibited:** AR 600-85, para 4-2, I, (1) and (9) explicitly prohibits service member use, possession, and distribution of kratom.

**UCMJ Action:** Violations may result in charges under Article 92 (Failure to Obey a Lawful Order or Regulation).

**Potential Penalties:** Up to two years confinement, loss of pay and benefits, and dishonorable discharge.

### Kratom Products



### ADVERSE SIDE EFFECTS<sup>2</sup>

- Addiction
- Death from overdose
- Withdrawal symptoms
- Hallucinations, confusion, tremors, seizures
- Slow breathing, high blood pressure or other cardiovascular effects
- Nausea & vomiting
- Liver problems



**REPORT A CRIME  
SCAN TO SUBMIT A TIP  
OR VISIT**

<https://www.cid.army.mil/>  
**Submit-a-Tip/**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/information-consumers-and-patients-drugs/hiding-plain-sight-7-oh-products>

<sup>2</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse, <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/kratom>, March 2022