



COMMANDING OFFICER'S HAZING POLICY STATEMENT

Hazing will not be tolerated in any way, shape or form in Headquarters and Support Battalion.

The Marine Corps policy on hazing, MCO 1700.28B, sums it up far more eloquently than I could: "Hazing is **contrary** to our **Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment** and is prejudicial to good order and discipline." Hazing is any act that causes another service member to "suffer or be exposed to any activity which is **cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful.**" It fosters an environment of fear and abuse, significantly degrades unit morale and readiness, and puts our most precious assets, Marines and Sailors, at risk of mental and physical harm.

The Marine Corps has a long and illustrious history. We have earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor many times over in the defense of our great nation. Yet, many times Marines feel the need to create "rites of passage" such as "blood pinning, and blood stripping", to name a few. This juvenile, degrading behavior is an insult to the hundreds of thousands of Marines whose past sacrifices in peace and war created the proud legacy and reputation we enjoy today.

I charge each of you to ensure that hazing does not occur in any form at any level. Actual or implied consent does not relieve the perpetrator of fault – **you cannot consent to being hazed.** Leaders at all levels shall maintain a vigilant eye and ear for behavior that would constitute hazing. It will not happen on our watch.

Hazing will not be tolerated in any way, shape or form in this battalion. All allegations of hazing will be thoroughly investigated. Substantiated incidents of hazing or failure to report them will be dealt with swiftly. Violators of this policy will face punishment under the UCMJ.

If you witness or suspect hazing, report it to your chain of command immediately.

Semper Fidelis,

W. L. DEPUÉ, JR.