



COMMANDING OFFICER'S Hazing Policy

“Hazing destroys the teamwork, trust and confidence that is central to unit cohesion”

Hazing is contrary to our ethos of "taking care of our own" and those who commit acts of hazing violate our institutional character and damage our most precious asset - Marines and Sailors. Hazing is any conduct whereby a military member or members, regardless of Service or rank, without proper authority causes another military member or members, regardless of Service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning/ or harmful. Soliciting or coercing another to perpetrate any such activity is also considered hazing. Hazing need not involve physical contact among or between military members; it can be verbal or psychological in nature. Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing does not eliminate culpability of the perpetrator.

Every Marine, Sailor and Civilian assigned to this command is part of the H&S Bn family and will at all times be treated with dignity and respect. No Marine, Sailor, or Civilian Marine shall engage in hazing or consent to being the subject of hazing. No individual in a supervisory position shall, by act, word, deed or omission, condone or ignore hazing if they know or reasonably should have known that hazing occurred. That said, it is every Marine's responsibility to ensure that hazing does not occur in any form at any level. Anyone who feels he or she has been the subject of hazing and reports the allegations will be considered to be a victim or witness.

Any individual who believes they have been hazed or witnesses hazing shall immediately inform the chain of command. If your immediate superiors are involved, then the Equal Opportunity Representative (EOR) who is my assigned advocate, should be contacted so I can personally and swiftly address the issue. I will thoroughly explore all allegations of hazing and all leaders will exercise extreme caution throughout the course of the investigation to minimize re-victimization. The investigation will focus on the climate that fostered hazing with a view toward improving the environment and preventing further hazing incidents. All known violators, as well as those who tolerated the act, will be subject to the UCMJ with a view to promote deterrence and prevent future incidents of hazing.

Hazing is not only prohibited by Marine Corps Order 1700.28B, it works counter to readiness and that of the operational forces we support. Hazing is also contrary to our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment and is prejudicial to good order and discipline. Moreover, hazing creates an environment of fear and reprisal, destroying the teamwork, trust and confidence central to unit cohesion. This is serious business and I expect all officers, SNCOs, and NCOs to embrace and enforce this policy.

Take care of each other!


V. J. CIUCCOLI