



COMMANDING GENERAL'S POLICY STATEMENT ON HAZING

Hazing is contrary to our ethos of "taking care of our own" and violates the high standards of virtuous conduct and core values earned by Marines who have served our Corps honorably since its birth. Once a young man or woman of character is transformed and earns the title "Marine," there are no "initiations" or "rites of passage" within the Marine Corps.

Hazing is contrary to our core values and is prejudicial to good order and discipline. We are expected to adhere to these values regardless of rank, duty status, or assignment. Hazing violates our institutional character and disrespects our most precious asset and lifeblood - our people. Therefore, any actions such as hazing or maltreatment that demeans the dignity of another individual, to include reprisal, will absolutely not be tolerated.

Hazing is defined as any conduct whereby a military member or members, regardless of service or rank and 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. Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing does not eliminate liability of the perpetrator. Hazing is not limited to superior-subordinate relationships. It may also occur between peers or may involve actions toward senior military personnel by those junior in rank.

Hazing can include but is not limited to the following: any form of initiation or congratulatory act that involves physically striking another to inflict pain; piercing another's skin in any manner; verbally berating another; encouraging another to excessively consume alcohol or perform dangerous acts; playing abusive or ridiculous tricks; threatening or offering violence or bodily harm to another; striking; branding; taping; tattooing; shaving; greasing; painting; requiring excessive physical exercise beyond what is required to meet standards; "pinning"; "tacking on"; "blood winging"; or the forced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or any other substance.

Hazing is a leadership, readiness and war-fighting issue. Hazing runs counter to mission accomplishment and, most importantly, degrades the dignity and respect to which we are all entitled. Those who violate this policy will be held accountable. If you believe that you are a victim of hazing or reprisal, or have knowledge of an incident, notify your chain of command via Request Mast or contact your Equal Opportunity Advisor immediately for assistance. We have your back!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Bowers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

WILLIAM J. BOWERS
BRIGADIER GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING GENERAL, MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC-MARINE
CORPS BASE CAMP BUTLER