



**U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES COMMAND
U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, EUROPE
POLICY STATEMENT ON HAZING**

Our Corps and our command policies on hazing are clear: Hazing is contrary to our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment and is prejudicial to good order and discipline. We are committed to leading and participating in an organization free from hazing. All members at U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command (MARFORCOM) and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe (MARFOREUR) will become familiar with Marine Corps Order MCO 1700.28B.

Hazing as defined is any conduct whereby a military member or members, regardless of service or rank, causes another military member or members, 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 includes, but is not limited to, any form of initiation or congratulatory act that involves physically striking another to inflict pain, piercing another's skin in any manner, taping, greasing, shaving, blood-winging, blood-striping or pinning, requiring excessive physical exercise beyond what is required to meet accepted component specific standards, verbally berating another, encouraging another to excessively consume alcohol or to engage in illegal, harmful, demeaning or dangerous acts, or the forced consumptions of food, alcohol, drugs or any other substance. Hazing need not involve physical contact among or between military members; it can be verbal or psychological in nature. Actual or implied consent by the victim does not make hazing acceptable, it is still wrong. Regardless of form, hazing is prohibited.

Hazing is counter to mission accomplishment. It destroys our service members' confidence and trust in their unit leadership and undermines unit cohesion and combat readiness. Unfortunately, there are some that confuse hazing with our many time-honored traditions. Hazing does not promote loyalty, build Esprit de Corps, or prepare service members for combat. The expectation for leaders is to motivate and inspire their subordinates to maintain mission success. Not to degrade or humiliate them.

Anyone having knowledge of hazing or suspected hazing will report the incident immediately via the chain of command or to the Command Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA) or Equal Opportunity Representative (EOR). The EOA for MARFORCOM is GySgt Hong Q. Huang, who is always available to assist you. He can be contacted at 757-836-1569 (DSN 836), BB 757-207-0682 or e-mail at hong.huang@usmc.mil. The EOR for MARFOREUR is GySgt Courtney B. Henderson who can be reached at DSN 314-431-3597, by commercial at 011-49-703-115-3597, or by email at courtney.henderson@usmc.mil.

Focus on mission, team, and cohesion. Semper Fidelis!

ROBERT B. NELLER

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