



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS FORCES COMMAND HAZING POLICY STATEMENT

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 have zero tolerance for hazing! We are committed to leading and serving in an organization free from hazing. All members of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command (MARFORCOM) will eliminate hazing and understand and enforce the guidance provided in Marine Corps Order MCO 1700.28B.

Hazing is defined as any conduct whereby a military member or members, regardless of service or rank, cause 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-stripping 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. Hazing is unacceptable regardless of consent and is intolerable.

Regardless of form, hazing destroys the very trust essential in warfighting organizations and is counter to mission accomplishment. It destroys confidence and trust in unit leadership and undermines unit cohesion and combat readiness. Unfortunately, some confuse hazing with time-honored traditions. Nothing could be further from the truth. Hazing does not promote loyalty, build Esprit de Corps, or prepare service members for combat. Our only tradition is success on and off the field of battle - there is no room for those that humiliate and degrade the men and women in our ranks.

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). The EOA for MARFORCOM is MSgt Hong Q. Huang, who is always available to assist you. He can be contacted in the office at 757-836-1569 (DSN 836), via cell phone at 757-207-0682, or by e-mail at hong.huang@usmc.mil.

Hazing is a cancer we can cure through engaged, intrusive leadership! Remain Semper Fidelis!

JOHN E. WISSLER
Lieutenant General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces Command