



# HAZING POLICY



Hazing erodes unit cohesion, destroys trust, and undermines good order and discipline. It is contrary to our core values as Marines and will not be tolerated in any form. I expect everyone in the battalion to treat their fellow Marines and Sailors with dignity and respect at all times. Hazing is any action that exposes an individual to cruel, abusive, humiliating, or oppressive behavior. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, forms of initiation or congratulatory acts that involve physical or emotional harm. It can occur even when no malicious intent is present and regardless of a person's willingness to participate. Soliciting or coercing others to participate is also considered hazing.

Everyone earned the title of "Marine" or "Sailor" upon completion of their entry level training; no other initiation or rite of passage is required. Our nation expects and demands that Marines and Sailors uphold the highest standards of character, self-discipline, and personal conduct. To engage in the immature, dehumanizing behavior that is synonymous with hazing serves only to tarnish our proud image and reduce our overall combat readiness.

Hazing is a leadership issue. I expect unit leaders at every level to provide proper mentorship and supervision to ensure this type of corrosive behavior does not occur. Particular attention will be given to protect Marines and Sailors that are new to the unit, especially those who recently completed their entry level training. Unit leaders will also help foster a command climate that is conducive to the reporting of hazing incidents without any fear of repercussion.

Any activity that could be interpreted as hazing will be strictly scrutinized and reviewed by the chain of command prior to execution. Any incident or suspected incident of hazing will immediately be reported to the Commanding Officer and Battalion Sergeant Major via the chain of command. Each allegation will be thoroughly examined to substantiate or refute, but initial reporting shall not be delayed. Those found to have participated in hazing or failed to report acts of hazing will be punished under the UCMJ. Every Marine and Sailor in the battalion will review and comply with this policy as well as the Marine Corps Order and all other applicable policies and directives on hazing. By preventing hazing before it occurs, we will ensure that Marines and sailors of 5th Battalion, 11th Marines embodies "The Spirit of Saint Barbara".

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