



Commanding Officer's Hazing Policy Statement



"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."
- MCO 1700.28B

There is absolutely no tolerance for hazing. Hazing, in any form, is prohibited and contrary to our core values. No Marine or service member to our Battalion, or attached to our Battalion, will engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon them. No one in a supervisory position will, by act, word, commission or omission, condone or ignore hazing if he or she knows or reasonably should have known that hazing has or might occur. Consent to hazing is not a defense to violating this policy. Any violation, attempted violation, or solicitation of another to violate MCO 1700.28B and this policy, subjects those involved to disciplinary action under Article 92 (at a minimum) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

Unfortunately, some in our ranks confuse hazing with the tradition of certain military ceremonies and develop initiations or "rites of passage" they believe promote loyalty and esprit. They do not. The only recognized "rites of passage" into the Naval Service are Enlisted Recruit Training, Officer Candidates School, or one of the Service Academies. No other initiations, rites of passage or secret ceremonies are acceptable or tolerated. Specific examples of hazing that are often falsely portrayed as acceptable "traditions" within the Artillery community are "dog-piling," biting primers, drinking swab water and taping someone to a cannon tube (among others). Such acts violate the respect and dignity of our Marines and Sailors.

No Marine or Sailor may engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon them. No one in a supervisory position may, by act, word, or omission, condone or ignore hazing if he or she knows or reasonably should have known that hazing has occurred. Furthermore, a victim's consent to hazing is not a defense for violating the Marine Corps order or this policy. The act of hazing degrades an individual's self-worth, is detrimental to good order and discipline and, if tolerated, will erode our unit cohesion and ability to accomplish our mission. This is a leadership issue and falls squarely within our mandate to "take care of our own" regardless of rank. NCOs are the main effort in ensuring we keep faith with our own.

Battery Commanders will consistently conduct leadership training, instruction and education for our Marines and sailors about unacceptable behaviors and the poisonous impact they have on morale, good order, discipline, and our overall warfighting capability. Every member of our Battalion must be aware of how to deal with instances of hazing in any form. Prevention is everyone's responsibility. Anyone who witnesses an act of hazing has a responsibility to address, correct and report the inappropriate behavior immediately to the chain of command. All instances of hazing will be thoroughly investigated and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against anyone who violates this policy.

W. S. WEIS
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