

COMMANDING GENERAL'S POLICY STATEMENT ON HAZING

Hazing is a selfish act that erodes good order and discipline and tears at the fabric of unit cohesion. Marines of the "Old Breed" never resorted to hazing to turn the tide in the Pacific – we must continue to follow their lead today. To win the next fight, the Blue Diamond must develop the will of individual Marines and build trust within small units. Hazing destroys this effort.

Hazing is defined as 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 to be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful. No Marine may consent to an act of hazing.



Once an individual graduates from Recruit Training, he or she is a Marine. Our Commandant has designated them as Marines, and no one below the Commandant has the right to "initiate" them into a unit.

Let me be clear, no Marine, regardless of rank, can make another Marine flip tires, do pushups, duck-walk, run sprints, or perform any similar act as a form of punishment, harassment, or degradation. Pinning on stripes or rank, ransacking a room as part of field day, and verbal abuse also constitutes hazing. If any of the above or other similarly demeaning act is attempted, the Marine who is the subject of hazing has a right, and the responsibility, to refuse the illegal order, prevent the hazing from occurring, and notify the chain of command. Similarly, any Marine who witnesses this type of behavior and does not take action to stop it is complicit in the hazing.

I expect my more junior Marines to tell a senior Marine to "pound sand" if hazing is attempted. Failure to do so may result in administrative action against that Marine.

We are in the First Marine Division -- the Blue Diamond -- not some high school locker room. We all have 10520 weapons cards and a license to use them in combat. With that responsibility comes the requirement to behave as adults. I will not tolerate anything less. We will fight and win only if we cross the line of departure as a team. The Marines who took Guadalcanal knew this. I expect every Marine in this Division today to understand this as well.

For those Marines who continue to do the right thing, thank you, but you must do more. You are expected to ACTIVELY prevent the abuse of your fellow Marines. If a Marine is willing to haze a fellow Marine, how will a Prisoner of War be treated? We can't allow this, not in this national treasure known as the First Marine Division. For anyone who refuses to be part of the team, appropriate adverse administrative or disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice will be taken. Within the First Marine Division, I will personally adjudicate all hazing cases, and all substantiated cases will result in mandatory processing for separation. Please do not mistake this as an idle threat. It is a fact. Build the family now, there will be no time when war starts.

If further assistance is required, the 1st Marine Division Equal Opportunity Advisor can be reached at (760) 725-6686 or (760) 468-5908.

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