

HEADQUARTERS BATTALION
1ST MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF

COMMANDER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON
HAZING



Headquarters Battalion consistently delivers tactical excellence because of our superb Marines and Sailors. A positive, professional work environment, free from hazing, is essential to enable our continued mission success. I am committed to sustaining a climate within our Standard Bearer team that does not tolerate hazing. As Marines and Sailors, our heritage and traditions are important to us; they form the foundation of a belief system to which we have dedicated ourselves. Significant rites of passage already occur at various crossroads throughout our service. They begin on the yellow footprints at Recruit Training and Officer Candidates School. They continue with promotion through the ranks. They even include facing the enemy in combat. However, no contrived rite of passage which intentionally harms or degrades a Marine or Sailor has any place in this organization.

Hazing is defined as any conduct by a military member, regardless of Service or rank, which causes another military member, regardless of Service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to an activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, or oppressive. 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, verbally berating another, encouraging another to excessively consume alcohol, or encouraging another to engage in illegal, harmful, demeaning, or dangerous acts. Soliciting or coercing another to participate in any such activity is also considered hazing. Hazing need not involve physical contact among or between military members; it can be verbal or psychological in nature.

The Standard Bearers can only prevent hazing through the application of firm, fair, compassionate leadership and close supervision at all levels. All leaders within our team will educate themselves, their Marines, and their Sailors on this policy letter's contents and will enforce an environment within our unit in which hazing does not exist. Men and women of all ranks are responsible for reporting any and all incidents of hazing or suspected hazing. There will be no retribution against any Standard Bearer who reports hazing.

Violations of this policy may be subject to administrative or disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Any member of this battalion who witnesses a hazing incident or an attempt to conduct hazing will take appropriate action to stop the activity and immediately report it to the chain of command. Assistance is also available through the Battalion Equal Opportunity Representative at (760) 725-8709.

The Standard Bearers are a select few – a band of warriors. There is no mandate that we shed blood together to unite us; sweat and hard work are enough.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C. C. Readinger'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

C. C. Readinger
Colonel USMC
Commanding Officer

BEAR THE STANDARD