



## Commanding Officer's Hazing Policy

**Hazing will not be tolerated in Marine Air Control Group 18!**

**Hazing dishonors our values, our Corps and our fellow Marines. *This is not who we are!***



**From the Headlines:**

**Oct 2011** "Lance Corporal Lew was beaten, berated and forced to perform rigorous exercise,"... "He was forced to do push-ups and leg lifts wearing full body armor, and sand was poured in his mouth. He was forced to dig a hole for hours. He was kicked, punched and stomped on. And it did not stop until 3:20 a.m." Minutes later, "Lew climbed into the foxhole that he just dug and shot himself and committed suicide. Message found on Lew's arm, believed to be a suicide note, said: "May hate me now, but in the long run this was the right choice I'm sorry my mom deserves the truth." -Tom Cohen, CNN.

**June 2012**, "Marine new to a unit was told the copier was voice activated by name and rank and if it did not print it meant he was not "sounding- off". Incident was discovered when asked, what happened to his voice." -Source withheld

**Oct 2014**, "Marine as tasked to paint rocks because he was late for work" -Source unknown

**May 2015** " A decorated Marine accused of humiliating and intentionally physically abusing those under his command -- ordering one to punch another hard enough to make him urinate blood -- is facing a court-martial in Virginia." -Brock Vergakis, Associated Press.

The stories above ripped from the headlines illustrate the extremes, but drives home the stark reality that hazing is a scourge. It still occurs in our Corps. MCO 1700.28b states hazing is "a willful and demeaning act that degrades victims' and witnesses' abilities to function effectively within

their units. At its core, hazing creates an environment of fear and reprisal, destroying the teamwork, combat readiness, and the trust and confidence central to unit cohesion...". Hazing need not be physical. It can also be verbal and psychological. This behavior undermines our organizational effectiveness, erodes public trust in our Corps, and can result in our Marines, Sailors, and families paying the ultimate price.

Every member of MACG-18 has **a duty and a responsibility to act to stop hazing**. It takes the leadership and moral courage to identify, report, and stop hazing in our ranks. Leaders at every level must be vigilant and actively engaged in identifying and eradicating this behavior. We have a moral obligation to our fellow warfighters, our families, and our Corps to stop this scourge.

- All MACG-18 personnel will to be treated with dignity and professionalism, regardless of rank.
- Zero tolerance for initiation rites, harrassment, or disparaging individuals - even in jest.
- Consent to hazing by the subject is not a defense for the behavior.
- If an event occurs, we have support programs such as Behavioral Health, Chaplin, MFLC, and FPC.
- Every Marine has a responsibility to report instances of hazing via the chain of Command, Request Mast, AnyMouse, or directly to me.
- We will create an environment where Marines can report instances of hazing without fear of reprisal.
- Those who observe these kinds of behavior and fail to report will be held accountable via the UCMJ.

Point of contact for additional information and support: MSgt Wayne W. Maxwell at DSN 636-3590, Cell 080-4323-1085 or email: wayne.maxwell@usmc.mil.

L. M. MAHLOCK  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer



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