

HAZING POLICY

Hazing has no place in our Marine Corps and certainly no place in Marine Air Support Squadron 2. The rite of passage to become a Marine or Sailor is already clearly defined through successful completion of recruit or officer candidate training. Hazing is contrary to everything we stand for as Marines and is a complete departure from our Core Values. It undermines good order and discipline and is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

MCO 1700.28B clearly defines hazing and every Marine and Sailor in this command will familiarize themselves with the expansive definition that includes, but is not limited to, any conduct by a military member, regardless of service or rank, that causes another military member, regardless of service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful. Any Marine or Sailor in this command that solicits or coerces another member to perpetrate such activity is violating the hazing policy. Hazing is also not limited to just physical contact, but can also be verbal or psychological in nature.

The litany of acts that constitute hazing are included in the subject Marine Corps Order. Ignorance is not an excuse. Examples of such actions include physically striking another to inflict pain, piercing another's skin, verbally berating another for the sole purpose of humiliating, playing abusive or ridiculous tricks, branding, painting, taping, and forced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or any other substance. Additionally, consent to hazing is not a defense.

This is a professional organization run by professionals. Leaders at every level within this command will ensure that Marines and Sailors are treated with respect and take the necessary steps to promote deterrence and prevention of hazing within our ranks.

It is important to note that hazing does not include operational activities or the associated required training to accomplish the mission. It also does not include verbal counseling that addresses deficiencies in performance or conduct. Command authorized activities, such as physical training, administrative corrective measures, or properly administered Extra Military Instruction, are not considered hazing.

Simply put, hazing is wrong and it is our duty to ensure that all Marines and Sailors are treated properly. If you witness hazing or hear of such incidents, it is your responsibility to make a report to the appropriate authorities and the chain of command. Marines or Sailors that violate this policy will subject themselves to possible administrative or disciplinary action.

We are all Marines who proudly wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor and uphold the oath that we each took as part of our obligation to our Nation. It is our duty to ensure that no individual acts in such a manner as to undermine that sacred responsibility.

Semper Fidelis,



M. S. McFADDEN
Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer, Marine Air Support Squadron 2