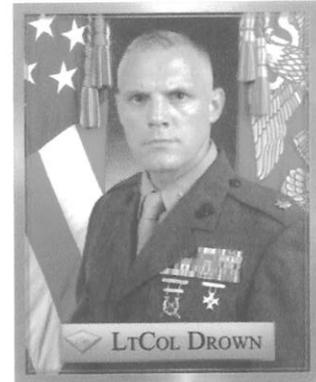


Commanding Officer Marine Tactical Command Squadron 18 Hazing Statement



Hazing in any form is unacceptable. Hazing undermines the trust that is the foundation of our service to our nation. Hazing erodes esprit de corps, destroys unit cohesion, and reduces combat readiness. Hazing must be eradicated from our culture and from our Corps.

In order to eliminate hazing from MTACS-18, we will use a three step approach: educate, report, and take action. First, we will educate all Marines and Sailors on the activities and behavior that constitute hazing as well as the steps necessary to prevent its occurrence. Second, we will inform every Marine or Sailor in the chain of command of their duty to report incidents of hazing. I expect every leader in the squadron, no matter their rank, to actively participate in these two steps. Finally, I will take aggressive disciplinary action against anyone who engages in acts of hazing.

Our unique geographical location makes us particularly vulnerable to acts of hazing. Due to the fact that Okinawa, Japan offers numerous challenges not present at CONUS bases, Marines who have been stationed on Okinawa for awhile gain experience and that "been there and done that" mentality. This mentality has a tendency to collide with the new Marines just checking into the unit. The new Marines are eager to fit into their surroundings and the Squadron, while the "salty" Marines are tempted to initiate the new Marines. **This will NOT happen.** There is no place for these activities in the Marine Corps or in this Squadron. If you have any questions about whether any action may or may not be acceptable, the answer is "NO".

Hazing can and must be eliminated. Make sure your Marines read and understand this policy. Zero tolerance is in effect.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. R. DROWN". The signature is stylized and fluid.

E. R. DROWN

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Commanding Officer

Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 18