



# HAZING

## Commanding General's Policy Statement



1st MAW Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines at every echelon, must understand that hazing is unlawful, prohibited, and will not be tolerated. Hazing violates our core values, our ethos, and impairs our ability to fight and win when the Nation calls. Commanders will investigate and report all allegations of hazing and pursue appropriate action against substantiated allegations. Hazing prevention is an integral part of each Command's climate and is a function of leadership. Maximize the use of all available Marine Corps resources to assist in this effort (contained in the reference).

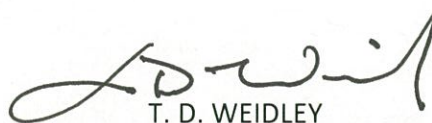
### How does this impact your ability to fight?

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 is contrary to our ethos of "taking care of our own" and stains the virtuous conduct and soldierly reputation earned by warriors who have served honorably since our Corps' inception. Those who commit acts of hazing violate our institutional character and damage our most precious asset - Marines and Sailors. To instill self-discipline, 1st MAW Marines and Sailors will lead through personal example. In that way, their subordinates know what right looks like. Disciplined Marines and Sailors treat each other with dignity and respect. They do not perpetuate or condone hazing. Setting a personal example requires "high moral standards reflecting virtue, honor, patriotism, and subordination in personal behavior and in performance." These are inner qualities that mark leaders, and that will significantly contribute to victory.

### What do I want you to do?

1. Ensure that hazing does not occur in any form, at any level – it's your responsibility. Every Service member and Civilian Marine is responsible to make appropriate authorities aware of hazing incidents and violations. Immediately report suspected cases of hazing to supervisors in the Chain of Command.
2. Ensure you are trained and educated on the Marine Corps Hazing Policy and on the consequences for those who decide not to uphold that policy (enclosure (1) to the reference).
3. Foster a command climate intolerant of hazing and proactive about reporting hazing incidents. Be aware of hazing report sensitivity and handling, as well as victim privacy.
4. Recall that 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 be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning/or harmful. Soliciting or coercing another to perpetrate 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. Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing does not eliminate culpability of the perpetrator.

**Reference:** MCO 1700.28B, Hazing



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