



Commanding Officer's Statement on Hazing



Hazing is PROHIBITED and will not be tolerated within Marine Air Control Group 18 (MACG 18), period. It is divisive to good order and discipline, and it is completely against all Marine Corps values. MCO 1770.28B states hazing is, "a willful and demeaning act that degrades victims' and witness' abilities to function effectively within their units." Hazing is not just physical, it can be verbal and psychological. This behavior undermines our organizational effectiveness, erodes public trust in the Marine Corps, and if left unchecked, can result in the Marine, Sailor, or loved ones paying the ultimate price.

From the Headlines:

May 2017, "...investigators found that a drill instructor assaulted six recruits between June and July of 2015. One of the recruits told a CID investigator that the drill instructor, a sergeant, grabbed his throat and picked him up so that he had to stand on his toes to breathe..." "I wasn't reporting it at the time because I was scared and wanted to keep it all in and continue training," the recruit told a CID investigator. –Jeff Schogol, Marine Corps Times

Nov 2017, "Cpl K. D. Lee, a three-year veteran of the corps who has yet to deploy overseas, allegedly threatened to toss the subordinate off a rooftop, questioned his gender, derided him with salty language and told other Marines that she was "not (expletive) done with him" and "we'll get him, don't worry," or similar phrases, her charge sheet indicated. –Carl Prine, San Diego Union Tribune

It takes engaged leadership and moral courage to stop hazing. I charge all MACG-18 Marines to actively engage in identifying and eradicating this behavior. We have a moral obligation to each other as humans to stop this behavior. There is zero tolerance for initiation rites, harassment, or disparaging of individuals. All MACG-18 personnel will be treated with dignity and professionalism. If an event occurs, we have the support programs to assist; Chaplin, Marine & Family Life Counselor, the DSTRESS hotline, Force Preservation Counsel, and Behavioral Health. Every Marine has a responsibility to report instances of hazing via the chain of command, request mast, or directly to me. We will create an environment within MACG-18 where Marines can report instances without fear of reprisals. Anyone observing these kinds of behaviors that fails to report them will be held accountable under the UCMJ. It is our duty to ensure hazing does not occur in MACG-18, 1st Marine Air Wing, or the Marine Corps.

If you need further assistance or additional information please contact: SSgt Jonathan M. Rueppel at DSN: 636-3350; or email: jonathan.rueppel@usmc.mil.



C. R. DOTY

COLONEL, U.S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING OFFICER