



HMH-463

Commanding Officer's Hazing Policy



Mission First, Marines and Families Always!

Hazing has no place in this command and will not be tolerated. I will deal swiftly and appropriately with those who conduct, promote, condone, or ignore hazing. Any substantiated incident of hazing will result in administrative and/or punitive proceedings under the UCMJ.

Hazing: Hazing is 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. **MCO 1700.28B outlines the Marine Corps Hazing Policy.**

Hazing can include, but is not limited to: physically striking another to inflict pain, piercing skin, branding, taping, tattooing, shaving, greasing, painting, pinning, tacking on, blood winging, blood striping, verbally berating, forced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs or other substances.

Hazing is a leadership issue and every Marine is a leader. I expect every Marine in this squadron to foster an environment of "taking care of our own." There are no "rites of passage" or "initiations" into this command. The newest members of this command will be afforded the respect and dignity afforded to all who have earned the title Marine. MOS qualifications, promotions and advancements will be based on performance. There is nothing additional to "earn" or "prove" to the command. Every member of this squadron is obligated to stop hazing and immediately report any instances of hazing to the Chain of Command.

Our Marines and extended Pegasus family are our most precious assets. To protect a nation we must take care of each other! This is the most **fundamental** duty of every Marine and speaks directly to our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. The greatest honor that we share as Marines is being in the company of one another. Every one of us will do our part. We will treat one another with dignity and respect at all times. We will protect one another. We will not let one another down. We will protect what we have earned, the right to be called a Marine, and we will be faithful to the legacy left to us by those who have gone before. We will embody our Corps' motto: Semper Fidelis.

**Lieutenant Colonel Eric D. Purcell
Commanding Officer, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463**