



HMLA-367

Hazing Policy

Reference: MCO 1700.28B



Our Corps and our Squadron policies on hazing are clear: Hazing is contrary to our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment and is prejudicial to good order and discipline. We have ZERO tolerance for hazing.

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, and/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.

Some confuse hazing with time-honored traditions such as “rites of passage.” Nothing could be further from truth. Hazing does not promote loyalty, build Esprit de Corps, or prepare service members for combat. Regardless of form, hazing destroys the very trust essential in warfighting organizations and is counter to mission accomplishment. It is a willful and demeaning act that degrades victims' and witnesses' abilities to function effectively within their units. Hazing creates an environment of fear and reprisal, destroying the teamwork, combat readiness, and trust and confidence central to unit cohesion.

I do strictly charge each of you to put a stop to hazing and bullying wherever you witness it. It is the responsibility of every Marine to ensure that hazing does not occur in any form at any level. Stand up for those who will not or cannot stand up for themselves. Stop it. Report it. Anyone having knowledge of hazing or suspected hazing will report the incident immediately via the chain of command or to the Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA). I will investigate all allegations of hazing and if substantiated, I will take the appropriate disciplinary and/or administrative action.

Hazing will not be tolerated.

Lieutenant Colonel Page Payne, USMC
Commanding Officer, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367