



Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on



Hazing

Hazing is a Readiness issue. It is defined in MCO 1700.28B as, "any conduct whereby a military member or members...without proper authority, causes another military member or members...to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is **cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful.**" It undermines our Core Values and destroys trust that is essential to successful combat operations. For that reason, **hazing is unlawful and will not be tolerated within MWSS-172.**

Hazing is an issue only because some members of our service have lost sight of proper military ceremonies and traditions, developing their own "rites of passages" or traditions that they believe foster cohesion or loyalty. Some examples: blood stripes for new NCOs, "pinning" new promotes by puncturing their skin with the rank device, verbally berating *for the sole purpose of belittling or humiliating*, playing abusive or ridiculous tricks, forced PT beyond what is required to meet the standards, etc.

Properly executed Extra Military Instruction (EMI) as defined by JAGINST 5800.7F paragraph 0103 is not hazing. It is a tool for small unit leaders to increase proficiency, but it requires measured application of a logically related corrective measure. EMI outside the bounds of JAGINST 5800.7F paragraph 0103 may be hazing.

Anyone found guilty of hazing will be held accountable and face judicial or non-judicial action. If you are subjected to hazing, or if you are aware of an act of hazing being committed, you must report it promptly.

The remedy to hazing is for each Firebird to show respect and preserve the dignity of his/ her fellow Firebirds, even while teaching, mentoring and coaching. **Treat others as you want to be treated, and never waiver from always doing the right thing. If all Firebirds abide by that mantra, hazing will not be an issue, and our Readiness will be preserved.**

Assistance is available through the squadron's Equal Opportunity Representative or your chain of command.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Wilson".

LtCol Wilson
Commanding Officer