COMMANDING OFFICER'S

2D ASSAULT AMPHIBIAN BN

STATEMENT ON HAZING

Protecting and ensuring the welfare of our Marines and Sailors are distinguishing qualities that Marines are known for around the world – and one of my command priorities. We protect each other, as the men and women of 2d Assault Amphibian Battalion and the "First Wave" family, to build and maintain an essential faith and trust in one another. This is what embodies our motto "Semper Fidelis" and it is earned and sustained through our daily actions and conduct. This faith and trust forms a bond that enables a positive command climate and teamwork to master individual and collective tasks...key to operational readiness and our ability to fight and win in combat. Hazing destroys this bond and violates the faith and trust shared among the members of this command. Every Marine and Sailor of this battalion is responsible for preventing and eradicating the behaviors associated with hazing while at the same time educating your subordinates on what constitutes such acts.

Per MCO 1700.28A, hazing is defined as any conduct whereby one military member, regardless of service or rank, cause another military member, regardless of service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to any activity that is cruel, abusive, humiliating or oppressive. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any form of initiation or congratulatory act that involves physical striking to inflict pain, verbal berating, encouraging excessing alcohol consumption, or encouraging engagement in illegal, harmful, demeaning or dangerous acts. Solicitation or coercion to participate in 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. The Marine Corps definition on hazing is clear and does not require a Marine being subjected to inappropriate acts to think he is being hazed. Simply put, hazing may exist even though the victim does not believe hazing has occurred. Reprisal actions against any victim or witness of hazing incidents are strictly prohibited. Report all violations to your chain of command immediately.

We will be Men and Women of Character – keeping our honor clean and not violating unit trust. Allowing hazing is inconsistent with our values and detrimental to the mission of this Battalion. Leaders will be vigilant to mitigate situations where conditions are ripe for hazing. We will uphold standards – but in a manner consistent with our Corps values. Whether during formal ceremonies or unit events, proper supervision will ensure conditions for hazing do not exist. Take care of one another, have faith and trust in the members of this battalion and do what is always right.

Semper Fidelis

"GATOR 6"

D. W. BAAS