



2D COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION COMMANDING OFFICER POLICY ON HAZING



“Tradition in the Marine Corps has nothing whatsoever to do with hurting or humiliating each other. It has everything to do with Marines exhibiting mutual respect, a strength of character, and a willingness to sacrifice for one another.”

- General Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps

As defined in MCO 5354.1E, hazing is "any conduct whereby a Service member or DOD employee knowingly, recklessly, or intentionally and without proper authority but with a nexus to military service causes a Service member or members, regardless of Service or rank, to suffer physically or psychologically or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, harmful, or creates a risk of physical or psychological injury." Hazing need not involve physical contact among or between military members; it can be verbal or psychological in nature, and may occur in person or through other forms of communication, including online and through social media. Because no person can, consent to hazing, actual, or implied consent to acts of hazing is not relevant, and may not be considered in determining whether hazing occurred. Hazing is evaluated by a reasonable person standard.

While hazing can occur during unauthorized initiations, “congratulatory acts,” or “rites of passage,” those types of events are not prerequisites for hazing. Hazing can include, but is not limited to: physically striking another to inflict pain; piercing another’s skin in any manner (such as “pinning” or “tacking on” of rank insignia or “blood winging”); verbally berating another; encouraging another to excessively consume alcohol or encouraging another to engage in illegal, harmful, demeaning, or dangerous acts; threatening or offering violence or bodily harm to another; branding; taping; tattooing; shaving; greasing; painting; requiring excessive physical exercise beyond what is required to meet standards; or, the forced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or any other substance.”

Hazing is contrary to our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment and is prejudicial to good order and discipline. It is contrary to our ethos of "taking care of our own." Hazing is unlawful and it will not be tolerated.

I charge all leaders in the chain of command to ensure that all Marines and Sailors are treated with dignity, care, and respect and to be ever vigilant for signs of hazing within our ranks. It is every Marine and Sailor's responsibility to ensure that hazing does not occur in any form at any level.

No Marine or Sailor in 2d CEB will engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon him or her. No one in a supervisory position will, by act, word, or omission, condone or ignore hazing if they know or reasonably should have known that hazing has or might occur. Consent to hazing is not a defense to violating this policy. Reprisal action against any victims, or witnesses, of hazing incidents is also strictly prohibited.

Any violation, attempted violation, or solicitation of another to commit hazing may subject involved members to adverse administrative or disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Know Your Stuff, Be a Marine, Take Care of Your People.

Robert M. McLellan
Commanding Officer
2d Combat Engineer Battalion