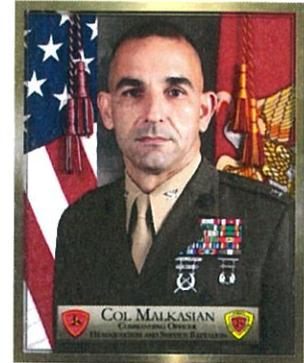




## *Headquarters Battalion Commander's Hazing Policy*



The United States Marine Corps is the world's premier fighting organization, and as a part of the forward deployed element, the Marines and Sailors of Headquarters Battalion must be ever ready to deploy and execute our mission at a moment's notice. There is no place within Headquarters Battalion or the Marine Corps for hazing, which inevitably degrades trust, esprit, unit cohesion and readiness.

MCO 1700.28 defines hazing 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, 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.

**It is the responsibility of every Marine and Sailor to ensure that hazing does not occur in any form at any level.** It is not limited to senior-subordinate relationships and may occur between peers and may involve actions toward senior personnel.

**Leaders at all levels must remain vigilant for the signs of hazing.** We will not tolerate hate, prejudice, discrimination, or harassment of any kind. Hazing has no place in our Corps. Incidents of hazing erode good order and discipline and undermine the trust and confidence of the public and our fellow Marines.

**Hazing, in any of its forms, will not be tolerated in this Battalion.** To meet the letter and intent of the Marine Corps' policy, it is incumbent on every Marine and Sailor to prevent hazing and inform the chain of command of potential incidents. Substantiated allegations of hazing will be dealt with swiftly and are subject to disciplinary action under the UCMJ.

The Marine Corps and Headquarters Battalion has a proud history of self-sacrifice and dedication to duty. Conduct that fails to uphold the dignity of and respect for our Marines and Sailors is morally repulsive, inconsistent with our core values, and does immeasurable damage to unit cohesion, combat readiness, and to our reputation. It will not be tolerated.

If you witness or suspect hazing, take action and contact someone in your chain of command immediately.

Point of contact for this policy is the Headquarters Battalion Executive Officer at DSN 622-9272.

GEORGE G. MALKASIAN  
Colonel  
United States Marine Corps