

COMMANDING OFFICER
1st Battalion, 3d Marines

HAZING POLICY STATEMENT



Hazing is any conduct whereby one military member, regardless of service or rank, causes another military member regardless of service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to an activity which is abusive, cruel, humiliating, or oppressive. Hazing includes, but is not limited to any form of initiation or congratulatory act that involves physically striking another person to inflict pain, piercing of skin in any manner, verbally berating another, encouraging another person to excessively consume alcohol, or encouraging another to engage in illegal, harmful, demeaning or dangerous acts. Hazing need not be physical in nature, verbal or psychological abuse is also considered hazing. Soliciting or coercing another to participate in such acts or condoning such acts with or without actual presence is also considered hazing.

Times during which this unacceptable behavior was the most pervasive in our Corps coincided with periods when our combat readiness suffered and where unit cohesion and morale were weak. There is nothing to be gained from such acts. The Marine Corps has formalized training and education which is sanctioned and time-tested. No Marine or Sailor is authorized to implement additional rites of passage. Hazing is NOT a Marine tradition. Our true traditions are those of Marines and Sailors applying ingenuity, courage, and immense effort to win the day and overcome the most challenging of problems together.

All Marines and Sailors will be treated with respect which they have already earned by their individual achievements, actions, and commitments. Training will be conducted professionally and will NEVER demean, berate, or abuse the men and women that our nation has entrusted to our care. Additional "training," to be conducted outside of the planned training schedule, must be authorized by company-level leadership. Hazing does not equate to tough training. Tough, challenging training equates to tough training.

Hazing will not be tolerated and substantiated instances have mandatory reporting requirements, as a serious incident report (SIR), to Headquarters Marine Corps. All personnel are charged to report any violations of this policy and take immediate action to correct and prevent such violations. Leaders within this command will train and supervise to prevent hazing at all levels. Violators of this policy may be subjected to appropriate administrative or judicial action. Ensure you understand the definition of hazing. The willing participation of individuals in hazing activities does not mitigate the fault of all those participating or condoning such behavior.

All personnel will familiarize themselves with the Marine Corps' policy regarding hazing, specifically MCO 1700.28B. The point of contact for these matters is Warrant Officer Mark Strepke and can be reached at (808) 257-1835 or mark.strepke@usmc.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. G. Gourgoumis'.

A. G. GOURGOU MIS
LTCOL, U.S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING OFFICER