



Commanding Officer, 4th Marine Regiment Camp Commander, Camp Schwab

Commanding Officer's Policy on Hazing

"At its core, hazing creates an environment of fear and reprisal, destroying the teamwork, combat readiness, and the trust and confidence central to unit cohesion. Hazing is contrary to our ethos of 'taking care of our own' and stains the virtuous conduct and soldierly reputation earned by those who have served honorably since our Corps' inception. Those who commit acts of hazing violate our institutional character and damage our most precious asset – Marines and Sailors."

-MARINE CORPS ORDER 1700.28B dtd 20 May 13

SHANGHAI TEAM, think for a minute, who amongst your friends and relatives would fight to the death for you? Who, when asked, would lay down their life for you, risk everything in the world for you? If we were perfectly honest with ourselves, I bet the answer would be very few. Yet the Marine Corps is built on this foundation of trust, cohesion, and self-sacrifice. In combat, we fight for the person on our right and left, we fight for each other. The measure of a unit's fighting ability and endurance is a measure of its cohesion and trust amongst its members.

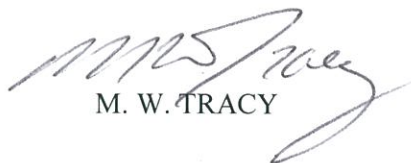
In garrison and in training, every decision and action by a small unit leader either builds trust and cohesion or tears it apart. There is no faster way to destroy cohesion and trust than through sexual assault and hazing. Not only does hazing wreck trust but it breeds resentment and vengefulness. Therefore hazing and sexual assault will not be tolerated. Its perpetrators will be pursued and prosecuted.

MCO 1700.28B 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..."*

"The following is a list of actions that may constitute hazing: physically striking another to inflict pain outside of supervised training exercise; piercing another's skin in any manner (such as 'pinning,' 'tacking-on,' or 'blood winging'); verbally berating another for the sole purpose of belittling or humiliating; encouraging another to excessively consume alcohol or encouraging another to engage in illegal, harmful, demeaning or dangerous acts; playing abusive or ridiculous tricks; threatening or offering violence or bodily harm to another; branding; taping; tattooing; shaving; greasing; painting; requiring excessive exercise beyond what is required to meet standards; or the forced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or any other substances."

Commanders and individuals in supervisory roles will ensure compliance with MCO 1700.28B. No one has the option to ignore what you see and not take action. Where hazing is found – unsubstantiated or substantiated – it is everyone's responsibility to report it immediately through the chain of command without fear of reprisal. All reports of hazing immediately will be investigated and violations may subject members to adverse administrative or disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

BE READY TO STAND-IN


M. W. TRACY