



Headquarters Battalion Commander's Hazing Policy



We have all earned the opportunity to serve in the United States Marine Corps and stand forward deployed to execute our mission at a moment's notice. Hazing is a cancer that destroys individual's trust and unit cohesion, and degrades our overall readiness. We recruit, train, and instill in Marines our Corps values and a sense of integrity and accountability; we equip them to do their jobs, and we treat them with dignity, care and concern. Hazing runs counter to all those actions and efforts to prepare our Marines and Sailors to go into harm's way. All must understand that Marines and Sailors do not make sacrifices or give up their precious lives because they have been hazed or initiated into some self-defined, "elite" sub-culture; they perform these heroic acts of selflessness because they are United States Marines and because they refuse to let their fellow Marines and Sailors down.

Hazing is prohibited; defined 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. No Marine, or service member attached to Headquarters Battalion 3rd Marine Division, may engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon them. No one in a supervisory position may, by act, word, or omission, condone or ignore hazing if he or she knows or reasonably should have known that hazing may occur. Examples of hazing include but are not limited to "Blood Stripping", "Pinning", or encouraging excessive consumption of alcohol.

While leaders at all levels must remain vigilant for the signs of hazing, it is ultimately the responsibility of every Marine and Sailor to ensure that hazing does not occur. Remember that hazing is not limited to senior-subordinate relationships, it may occur between peers or even involve actions toward senior personnel. Substantiated allegations of hazing will be dealt with swiftly and are subject to disciplinary action under the UCMJ. When hazing is alleged, the possibility of high risk, stress related reactions by both the victim and offender remain real threats to our Marines and Sailors; therefore, leadership will be engaged and prepared to employ appropriate Force Preservation measures.

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. 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.

GILES R. BOYCE
Colonel
United States Marine Corps