COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON HAZING

Customs and traditions are prevalent in the Marine Corps. They serve to enhance morale, esprit-de-corps, pride, and unit cohesion. Hazing, exemplified by initiations and rites of passage, are not included in this group and do nothing to enhance the professionalism and capability of our unit.

Hazing is defined as any conduct whereby a military member, regardless of Service or rank, causes another member to suffer or be exposed to an activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, or oppressive. Hazing can be physical, verbal, or psychological in nature and can occur in person or via social media.

Hazing does not include mission, operational, or command-sponsored activities, the training required for such events, administrative corrective measures, extra military instruction in accordance with Marine Corps regulations, command-authorized physical training, or other similar activities authorized by the chain of the command.

Hazing is strictly prohibited—period. Hazing does not build respect or promote discipline. It is demoralizing and unjustifiable. Irresponsible acts such as these inhibit our ability to accomplish our mission, are counter to our efforts to ensure the welfare of our personnel and their families, and degrade our warfighting effectiveness. I will address all acts of hazing immediately.

It is the responsibility of all hands, starting with me as the commander, to ensure that every service member is provided with a positive climate and atmosphere in which he or she can thrive. Beyond this, each and every Marine bears the responsibility to eliminate hazing from our ranks. Complacence or complicity by any of you while witnessing an act of hazing are offenses equally as serious as committing the act yourself. Our unit's mission and role in the defense of our nation are too vitally important to allow ourselves to be hindered by these unacceptable practices.

In accordance with our Commandant's guidance, all members of this Detachment will foster a command climate that discourages hazing and ensures all Marines and Sailors are treated with dignity, patience, fairness, and respect.

Semper Fidelis,

George W. Markert

Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Commanding Officer