



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORT BATTALION
SCHOOL OF INFANTRY-EAST
TRAINING COMMAND
PSC BOX 20161
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0161

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1000
1HSB
11 Jul 14

POLICY LETTER 5-14

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORT BATTALION HAZING STATEMENT

Ref: (a) MCO 1700.28B

1. Purpose. To establish the method by which Headquarters and Support Battalion will execute the requirements contained within the reference.

2. Cancellation. BnPol 2-13

3. Background. Many time-honored customs of the Marine Corps include events celebrating professional achievements. Part of the Marine Corps' heritage includes hails and farewells, promotion and graduation ceremonies, mess nights, dining in/out, and other similar activities. These events enhance morale, esprit de corps, and unit cohesiveness. Unfortunately, some Marines have confused hazing with proper military ceremonies and traditions, developing "rites of passage" that they misguidedly believe promote loyalty or tradition.

4. Policy. Per reference (a), hazing is 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. 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.

a. Hazing is unlawful and prohibited and will not be tolerated. I expect every member of this battalion to take measures that will prevent and eliminate the attitudes, circumstances, and opportunities that could lead to acts of hazing. No Marine attached or assigned to Headquarters and Support Battalion may engage in hazing or consent to being the subject of hazing. 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. The victim's consent to hazing is not a defense for violating this policy and the Marine Corps Order.

Subj: HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORT BATTALION EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

b. The act of hazing degrades an individual's self-worth, is detrimental to good order and discipline and, if tolerated within the command, will erode our unit cohesion and ability to accomplish our wartime mission. Those who witness a hazing incident will take appropriate action to stop the activity and to immediately report it to the chain of command. In other words, this is a leadership issue and falls squarely within our mandate to "take care of our own."

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

R. L. SALCIDO

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