



HAZING

Commanding Officer's Policy Statement

MATSG-21 Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines at all levels, must understand that hazing is unlawful, prohibited, and will not be tolerated. Hazing violates our core values, our ethos, and impairs our ability to compete the mission. All allegations of hazing will be investigated and reported, and if substantiated, appropriate action will be taken against those responsible. Hazing prevention is an integral part of this command's climate and is a function of leadership. I expect Marines at all levels, regardless of rank to do the right thing.

How does this impact your ability to complete your mission?

Hazing is defined as any conduct where military member(s) regardless of Service or rank, without proper authority, causes other member(s) to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning and/or harmful. Soliciting or coercing another to perpetrate such activity is also considered hazing. Hazing need not involve physical contact; it can be verbal or psychological in nature. Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing does not eliminate culpability of the perpetrator. Hazing degrades victims' and witnesses' abilities to function effectively within their units. At its core, hazing creates an environment of fear and reprisal, destroying the teamwork, unit 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 honor and legacy of the Marines that have gone before us. I expect all MATSG Marines and Sailors to lead by example, and treat all members with dignity and respect.

What do I want you to do?

1. Ensure that hazing does not occur in any form, at any level- it's everyone's responsibility. Every Marine, Sailor, and Civilian Marine is responsible to make the appropriate authorities aware of hazing incidents and violations. Immediately report suspected cases of hazing to supervisors in the Chain of Command.
2. Ensure you are trained and educated on the Marine Corps Hazing Policy and on the consequences for those who decide not to uphold that policy (enclosure (1) to the reference).
3. Foster a command climate that does not condone hazing and is proactive about reporting incidents. Be aware of hazing report sensitivity and handling, as well as victim privacy.

Reference: MCO 5354.1E, Marine Corps Prohibited Activities and Conduct (PAC) Prevention and Response Policy

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