



Commanding Officer's Policy on Hazing

The purpose of this policy is to ensure all assigned to this command are treated with dignity and respect.

Per Marine Corps Order 1700.28, hazing is defined as any conduct whereby one military member, regardless of Service or rank, causes another military member, regardless of Service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to an activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating or oppressive.

Hazing is a malicious act of cruelty. Its perpetrators rationalize it as a rightful initiation or sacred rite of passage. This flawed rationalization is the logic of cowards and province of the weak. Hazing is neither right nor sacred. It is a betrayal of the fundamental trust that all Marines and Sailors will be treated with dignity and respect. As I have previously stated, the purpose of this battalion is success in combat, and shared trust is critical to this success. We cannot expect Marines and Sailors to willfully make the sacrifices we will ask of them in combat if we have betrayed this fundamental trust.

Therefore, hazing in any form is strictly prohibited. No Marine or Sailor assigned to this battalion will engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon them. No leader will allow, excuse or overlook any incident of hazing. Consent to hazing is not a defense to violating this policy. Any violation, attempted violation or solicitation of another to violate this policy will subject those involved to disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Whether a victim, witness or participant, all hands who suspect hazing has occurred will immediately report the suspected incident via their chain of command.

This is a leadership issue, and I expect leaders to lead.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl E. Cooper, Jr.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carl E. Cooper, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding