



# I Marine Expeditionary Force Hazing Policy



"Hazing, is 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."

The Marine Corps policy on hazing is clear and uncompromising. Hazing is illegal, immoral, and unwanted. It is a tool of weak, immature, and ineffective leadership, prejudicial to good order and discipline, and is a destructive and corrosive element that degrades the cohesiveness and combat readiness of a unit. Hazing is a breach of our Nation's trust in the designated leaders of her sons and daughters, and is contrary to our core values. We take care of each other in combat, training, and in garrison; there is NEVER a reason to haze any Marine or Sailor who has been entrusted to your care. There are no secret initiations, no "rite of passage," or any other harassment for newly joined personnel. They bring vigor, enthusiasm, and diversity to our ranks, and are to be incorporated into their unit in a professional and caring manner.

Every Marine and Sailor in I MEF will be treated with fairness and respect. Leaders at all levels will become familiar with Marine Corps Order 1700.28B, Hazing. I do strictly charge each one of you to put a stop to hazing and bullying wherever you witness it. You are not allowed to let hazing occur to you, nor will you tolerate it done to others. Stand up for those who will not or cannot stand up for themselves. Stop it. Report it. I will investigate all allegations of hazing and if substantiated, I will take the appropriate disciplinary and/or administrative action.

Semper Fidelis

D. H. Berger  
Lieutenant General, USMC  
Commanding General  
I Marine Expeditionary Force