



## Commanding General I Marine Expeditionary Force Prohibition of Hazing Policy Statement



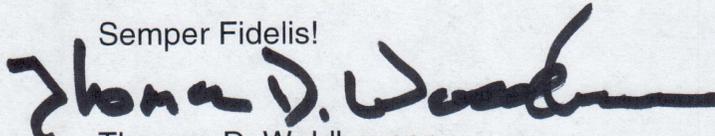
MCO 1700.28A clearly defines hazing as any conduct whereby a military member or members, regardless of service or rank, without proper authority causes another military member or members, regardless of service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, 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.

Hazing is contrary to our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, and is prejudicial to good order and discipline. Hazing will absolutely not be tolerated!

Unfortunately, some Marines and other service members confuse hazing with events conducted to enhance morale, esprit de corps, pride, professionalism, and unit cohesiveness. This could not be further from reality as hazing always is contrary to our ethos of "taking care of our own," and always violates our institutional character and disrespects our most precious asset – our Marines and Sailors.

1. All I MEF personnel will read and understand the contents of MCO 1700.28A, and leaders at all levels will ensure initial orientation training and annual refresher training on USMC hazing policy are conducted.
2. No Marine, other service member, or Civilian Marine may engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon them.
3. Commanders or individuals in supervisory positions will not by act, word, deed, omission, condone or ignore hazing if they know/reasonably should have known hazing may have occurred.
4. Any violation, attempted violation, or solicitation of another to violate the prohibition of hazing policy will be subject to administrative and/or punitive action under Article 92 of UCMJ.
5. Retaliation actions against any victim(s) or witness(es) of hazing incidents are strictly prohibited.
6. Commanding Officers must be informed immediately of any allegations of hazing.

It is the duty of every Marine, other service members, and our Civilian Marines to ensure that hazing is not allowed, and that all personnel are treated with genuine dignity, fairness, and respect. Be professionals!

Semper Fidelis!  
  
Thomas D. Waldhauser