SPMAGTF–CR–CC Commanding Officer's Statement on Hazing

The cohesion of a unit is one of the key factors that determine success in battle. Therefore, we must do everything in our power to ensure that nothing undermines the cohesion of any of our units. Hazing, intimidation, isolation, and negative leadership are our enemies as they do nothing but undermine cohesion and limit our combat effectiveness. Hazing, in particular, is a critical vulnerability to the success of our unit and will not be tolerated.

Marine Corps Order 1700.28B defines hazing as cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning or harmful actions – either physical or emotional – against another Marine or Sailor. Nothing in that definition describes a unit that succeeds in combat.

Every member of SPMAGTF-CR-CC must take proactive steps to prevent hazing and protect our unit's cohesion and warfighting ability. All leaders must discuss the negative impacts of hazing with their Marines and Sailors and I charge every leader to build an outfit where such childish destructiveness is not allowed to take root. All Marines and Sailors must understand their obligation to report suspected incidents of hazing via their chain of command or the Request Mast process. There will be no reprisals. I will ensure that leaders quickly investigate suspected hazing incidents so those responsible can be held accountable. Be assured that I will take swift administrative and disciplinary action against anyone who is found to have hazed any of our people.

SPMAGTF-CR-CC is building a legacy like few other units in our Corps. We are at the forefront of our nation's defense, and hazing has no place in our mission. Let us hold true to our standards and honor those who have come before us through our performance in combat and our commitment to our fellow Marines and Sailors.

K. R. Kassner
Colonel, USMC
Commanding Officer