



COMMANDING OFFICER'S HAZING STATEMENT

Per Marine Corps Order, 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 includes, but is not limited to, any form of initiation or congratulatory act that involves physically striking another to inflict pain, piercing another's skin in any manner, verbally berating another, encouraging another to excessively consume alcohol, or encouraging another to engage in illegal, harmful, demeaning or dangerous acts. Soliciting or coercing another to participate in 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 prohibited. No Marine or Sailor may engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon them. No one in a supervisory position may, by act, word, or omission, condone or ignore hazing if he or she knows or reasonably should have known that hazing may occur. The victim's consent to hazing is not a defense for violating this order.

The act of hazing degrades an individual's self-worth, is detrimental to good order and discipline and, if tolerated within the command, will erode our unit cohesion and ability to accomplish our mission. In other words, this is a leadership issue and falls squarely within our mandate to "take care of our own."

I expect every member of this Regiment who witnesses a hazing incident to take appropriate action to stop the activity and to immediately report it to the chain of command.

Additional information and assistance is available through the chain of command and Marine Corps Order 1700.28.

S. R. JOHNSON
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer