



Commanding Officer's Hazing Statement



Hazing is prohibited and will not be tolerated aboard Marine Corps Air Station New River: ***it will not happen on our watch!***

The Marine Corps policy on hazing, MCO 1700.288, states "Hazing is contrary to our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment and is prejudicial to good order and discipline." Hazing is divisive, demeaning, and unacceptable in any form. It is any act that causes another service member to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful. Hazing fosters an environment of fear, hostility and abuse; significantly degrades unit cohesion, morale and readiness; and puts our most precious assets, our Marines, Sailors, and Civilians at risk of mental and physical harm.

Hazing is not just physical, it can be verbal and physiological. This behavior undermines our organizational effectiveness, and erodes public trust in the Marine Corps, and if left unchecked, can result in Marine, Sailor, Civilians, or loved ones paying the ultimate price. The cause and effect of hazing also stifles personal and professional growth and hampers our ability to accomplish the mission.

It takes leadership at all ranks and moral courage to stop hazing. I charge all personnel of the air station to actively engage in identifying and eradicating this unacceptable behavior. There is ***zero tolerance*** for initiation rites, harassment, or disparaging of individuals. Actual or implied consent does not relieve the perpetrator of fault; you cannot consent to being hazed. Leaders at all levels shall maintain a vigilant eye and ear for behavior that would constitute hazing.

As stated above, hazing will not be tolerated in any way, shape or form, and all personnel will be treated with dignity, respect and professionalism. No personnel in the command shall, by act, word, deed, or omission, condone or ignore hazing if they know or reasonably should have known that hazing occurred.

If you are the victim of hazing or observe an act of hazing, you must report the incident; and all allegations of hazing will be thoroughly investigated. Substantiated incidents of hazing or failure to report them will be dealt with swiftly.

We will create an environment aboard the air station where all personnel can report instances without fear of reprisal. It is our duty and responsibility to ensure that hazing does not occur in any form, at any level, and to report any suspected hazing activity.

Semper Fidelis,

G. W. BURNETT

Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer

Marine Corps Air Station New River