



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE FORCE
II MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
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INDIAN HEAD, MD 20640-5035

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S-1
21 MAY 2013

Chemical Biological Incident Response Force Policy Letter #6-13

From: Commanding Officer

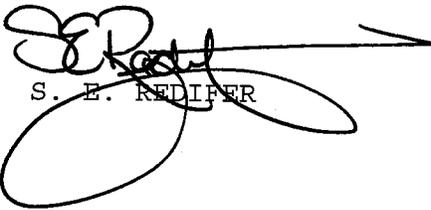
To: All Sections

Subj: HAZING POLICY LETTER

Ref: (a) MCO 1700.28B

Encl: (1) Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Hazing

1. Purpose. Enclosure (1) is the Commanding Officer's policy on hazing.
2. Action. All personnel assigned to CBIRF will review this policy letter and become familiar within its contents. Enclosure (1) will be displayed on troop information throughout this battalion.
3. Point of contact regarding this matter is the CBIRF Sergeant Major.


S. E. REDIFER

Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Hazing

Hazing is any conduct in which a military member causes another military member or members to be exposed to an activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful. In other words, it is treating one of our brothers or sisters in arms in a manner that is designed to damage or hurt them – this is absolutely counter to our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment and is not in keeping with our warrior culture.

Bottom line: No Marine, Sailor, or Civilian attached to CBIRF may engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon them – it will simply not be tolerated.

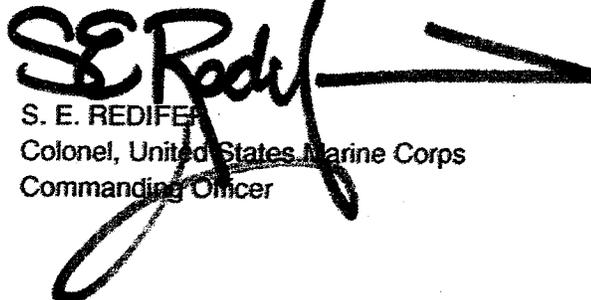


There are countless traditions in our Marine Corps and Navy that have stood the test of time; our heritage includes events such as ceremonies, graduations, birthday balls, promotions, and changes of command to name but a few. These events inspire camaraderie, esprit de corps, and allow us to pass traditions on to a new generation of Marines and Sailors. Unfortunately, there are those who would believe that there should be other "initiations" or "rites of passage" – these individuals mistakenly believe that such initiations promote loyalty or tradition within a unit. These individuals often see a need to "do a little extra" in the form of some action which ultimately constitutes hazing; what such people don't understand is that this behavior and these actions actually tear a unit apart by creating an environment of fear, exclusion, and intimidation. *Recruit training and officer commissioning programs are the sole rites of passage that Marines and Sailors go through – there are no others and absolutely none in CBIRF!*

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure hazing does not occur in any form at any level. Hazing, even if one consents to a hazing event, is unlawful, prohibited, and will not be tolerated – any violation, attempted violation, or solicitation of another to commit an act of hazing will subject those involved to disciplinary action. Commanders and supervisors will ensure that they do not condone or ignore hazing or create an environment in which hazing could be perceived as acceptable; further, we must foster a command climate such that victims feel that they can report hazing incidents without fear of reprisal or retaliation. Finally, I must immediately be made aware of any allegations of hazing; we will promptly and thoroughly investigate all such allegations, hold violators accountable, and ensure that victims and witnesses are treated with dignity and respect.

I regard hazing as an insult to all who have earned the right to be called "Marine" or "Sailor" – earning this title is the only rite of passage that our great organizations need – hazing detracts from this, destroys teamwork, and creates an environment that prevents mission accomplishment. I cannot overemphasize my commitment to ensuring that all of our Marines and Sailors are treated with dignity and respect. Fidelity and mutual trust are at the heart of who we are and defines how we treat each other – this is our culture. Hazing is a leadership, readiness, and warfighting issue – we can and will prevent it and ensure that we are keeping faith with our Marines, Sailors, and Civilians.

"Do the right thing and fear no man!"


S. E. REDIFE
Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer

ENCLOSURE (1)