

Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Hazing

Hazing is defined as any conduct in which a military member or members cause another military member or members to be exposed to an activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful. Soliciting or coercing another to inflict or engage in such activities is hazing.



Hazing is a violation of our Marine Corps and Navy core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment and is not in keeping with our warrior culture.

Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to, any form of initiation, punishment, or congratulatory act that involves physically striking another to inflict pain, piercing the skin, blood-winging, blood-stripping, or the forced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or any substance. Hazing need not involve physical contact among or between military members; it can be verbal or psychological in nature. Actual or implied consent by the victim does not make hazing acceptable. Hazing is unacceptable regardless of consent and is intolerable.

No Marine, Sailor, or Civilian attached to CBIRF may engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon them - it will not be tolerated in this command. Those who commit or participate in acts of hazing in this command will be formally counseled and subject to disciplinary action as prescribed within the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

Numerous traditions from our heritage in the Marine Corps and Navy exist to inspire camaraderie, esprit de corps, and allow us to pass traditions on to a new generation of Marines and Sailors; they include events such as graduations, birthday balls, promotions, and changes of command to name but a few. Leaders are to use the rich traditions we already have to encourage service pride and team building. *Recruit training and officer commissioning programs are the sole rites of passage that Marines and Sailors experience – period.*

Hazing destroys trust. Hazing erodes morale. Hazing poisons a unit from within.

Commanders and leaders will ensure all members of CBIRF have read and understand Marine Corps Order 1700.28B, and will ensure that they do not condone or ignore hazing or create an environment in which hazing could be perceived as acceptable. Any one reporting hazing will be safe from retaliation or reprisal.

Every Marine and Sailor in CBIRF is responsible to prevent, stop, and report all incident of hazing in any form and at any level. Anyone having knowledge of hazing or suspected hazing will report the incident immediately via the chain of command or to the CBIRF Equal Opportunity Advisor, GySgt Maribel Coleman at (301) 744-2040. I will immediately be made aware of any allegations of hazing in CBIRF.

CBIRF is a professional Warfighting organization with unique skillsets to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive incidents. All members of the command will conduct themselves as professionals and will maintain readiness for global deployment if the nation calls. Hazing erodes readiness and hampers our ability to perform our mission; we can and will prevent it and ensure that we are keeping faith with our Marines, Sailors, and Civilians.

"Semper Fidelis!"

M. L. CARTER
Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer