



Marine Air Control Group 38 Commander's Hazing Statement



Hazing destroys love, violates trust, and breaks the bond of commitment that holds our Corps together. It demeans the individual, weakens the team, and undermines our readiness. Our strength as Marines is built on mutual respect and trust — the same trust that allows us to fight and win together in the crucible of combat. Hazing has no place in that environment and will not be tolerated.

MCO 1700.28B clearly defines hazing as *“any conduct whereby a military member or members, regardless of Service or rank, without proper authority causes another military member or members, regardless of Service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is **cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful**. Soliciting or coercing another to perpetrate 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. Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing does not eliminate culpability of the perpetrator.”* Allegations of hazing will be swiftly reported, investigated, and, if substantiated, dealt with appropriately.

Leaders at every level must remain alert to behaviors that threaten cohesion or humiliate subordinates under the guise of tradition, discipline, or “toughening.” True leadership is an act of love - it builds, never breaks. Our charge as Marines is to develop one another through mentorship, not degradation; through challenge, not abuse. Those who resort to hazing betray the trust placed in them by their fellow Marines, their command, and the American people.

Readiness is a moral condition as much as a physical one. A unit that tolerates cruelty cannot operate effectively in combat. Maintaining discipline and dignity within our ranks ensures that our force is strong, cohesive, and capable of maneuver under the most demanding conditions.

If you witness or suspect hazing, take action and report it immediately to your chain of command. If the misconduct involves someone within that chain, exercise your right to request mast and report it without delay. Marines and Sailors must never fear reprisal for doing what is right. Decision-making in these moments defines character — silence in the face of wrongdoing condones it, and failure to act is incompatible with our ethos. Those who fail to report hazing, or who attempt to conceal it, will also be held accountable.

We must value love for one another, trust in our teammates, and commitment to our shared mission. Hazing violates all three. We will hold ourselves to a higher standard — one rooted in honor, compassion, and respect — because these are the true marks of warriors and the foundation of our strength as Marines.

Semper Fidelis,


E. J. O'Connell
Colonel, USMC
Commanding Officer