



COMMANDING OFFICER 1ST SUPPLY BATTALION  
STATEMENT ON



## Hazing Prevention Policy

Marines and Sailors,

Per MCO 5354.1E, hazing is defined 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 physiological in nature. Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing does not eliminate culpability of the perpetrator.

Hazing is contrary to our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment, is prejudicial to good order and discipline, and impairs our ability to fight and win our nation's battles. Examples include but are not limited to; any form of initiation or congratulatory act that involves physically striking another to inflict pain, verbally berating another, encouraging another to excessively consume alcohol, or playing abusive or ridiculous tricks on another (See MCO 5354.1E for additional examples). At its core, hazing creates an environment of fear and reprisal, destroying the teamwork, combat readiness, trust and confidence that is central to unit cohesion.

Hazing is unlawful, prohibited, and will not be tolerated. No Marine or Sailor assigned to 1st Supply Battalion may engage in hazing or consent to being subjected to hazing. 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 occurred. The victim's consent to hazing is not a defense for violating this policy and the Marine Corps Order.

Reports of hazing will be thoroughly investigated and promptly handled. Anyone that participates in or tolerates hazing will be subject to the UCMJ. Any individual who believes they have been hazed or witnesses hazing shall immediately inform the chain of command. If your immediate superiors are involved, then Request Mast can be used so I can personally and swiftly address the issue.

I expect every member of this battalion to take measures that will prevent and eliminate attitudes, circumstances, and opportunities that could lead to acts of hazing. Those who witness a hazing incident will take appropriate action to stop the activity and to immediately report it to the chain of command or the Equal Opportunity Representative. Any Marine or Sailor who is directed to undergo any form of hazing has the right and duty to refuse the order as it is unlawful.

Semper Fidelis,

S. H. NIEWENHOUS IV  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer, 1st Supply Battalion