



COMMANDER
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS FORCES, KOREA
HAZING POLICY



What Matters to Us: Operational Excellence, Standards Based, Respect and Concern for All

I draw your attention to the third of these three imperatives.

Respect and Concern for All

The strength of our Corps, the foundation of our leadership, and the framework of our unit cohesion is built on respect, trust and confidence. Hazing, in any form, is contrary to "What Matters to Us", our core values, and it erodes our unit cohesion.

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 does not require physical contact among or between military members; it can be verbal or psychological in nature as well. It is a willful and demeaning act that degrades and diminishes the ability of victims, and in some cases witnesses, to function effectively within their units. At its core hazing exploits and creates an environment of fear and reprisal, destroying the confidence and trust that is central to unit cohesion, teamwork, and combat readiness – the very lifeblood of our Corps. Hazing is contrary to our ethos of "taking care of our own" and violates the high standards of virtuous conduct and soldierly repute earned by Marines who have served our Corps honorably since its inception. Hazing violates our institutional character and disrespects our most precious asset – our Marines and Sailors. Categorically, hazing will not be tolerated. Violators will be pursued and prosecuted.

We are All inclusive – Every One of Us Matters!

Whether we're single, married, family, partners, civilian Marines or fellow Marines & Sailors; we take care of ourselves and we care of each other.

We Insist on Interested, Engaged, and Concerned Leadership at Every Level; Building the Best Possible Command Climate.

All allegations of hazing MUST be reported and will be processed and investigated in accordance with Marine Corps Order, MCO 1700.28B.

Semper Fidelis,



PATRICK J. HERMESMANN

Major General, United States Marine Corps

Commander

United States Marine Corps Forces, Korea