

COMMANDING GENERAL'S HAZING POLICY STATEMENT



Military customs and traditions have long been an integral part of the Navy and Marine Corps. While most ceremonies commemorate the many selfless feats of bravery of our military men and women, they also commemorate significant events. These feats and events form the basis for our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. These events include hails and farewells, promotion and graduation ceremonies, mess nights, dining's ins/outs, and other similar activities, which enhance morale, spirit de corps and unit cohesion.

Adherence to core values by our Marines and Sailors is central to the II Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) ability to meet its mission. Every Service Member will be treated with dignity and respect, and as a valued member of our Navy and Marine Corps team. Hazing degrades and diminishes the ability of victims to function within their unit and it destroys our service member's confidence and trust in their teammates. Hazing is destructive to unit cohesion and combat readiness. Every member of II MEF must be afforded the opportunity to be a productive and valued contributing member to our warfighting team. Hazing is not a part of our "time honored traditions" and it has no place in the Marine Corps and Naval Services. Operational excellence, readiness, standards, dignity and respect are the principles of "What Matters to Us" as the world's greatest fighting force. Members of II MEF will not tolerate hazing. Leadership has a responsibility to create and maintain an environment free from hazing.

Hazing is any conduct whereby a military member or members, regardless of Service, position or rank, without proper authority causes another member to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning or harmful. The following are actions that may constitute hazing: pinning, shaving, tattooing, verbally berating another for the sole purpose of belittling or humiliating, and playing abusive or ridiculous tricks.

Marine Corps Orders requires commanders to report all allegations of hazing (including anonymous complaints) and investigate these allegations to determine the facts. No service member in or attached to II MEF shall engage in hazing activities or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon them. It is every service member's responsibility to ensure that hazing does not occur in any form at any level. The guiding principles detailed in this Policy Statement apply to the conduct of all II MEF personnel. Any act, attempt, solicitation, or failure to report hazing will result in appropriate disciplinary and/or adverse administrative action.

For additional assistance or information refer to MCO 1700.28B or contact your respective Staff Judge Advocate or your Command Inspector General. For Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (DASH) reporting requirements contact the II MEF Equal Opportunity Advisor at (910) 451-1262 or (910) 467-1980.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. F. Hedelund".

R. F. Hedelund
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
II MEF Commanding General