

## COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON HAZING



Hazing in any form is unacceptable and will not be tolerated! Hazing undermines the trust that is the foundation of our service to the nation. Hazing erodes esprit de corps, destroys unit cohesion, and reduces combat readiness. As Dragons, we must take great pride in who we are and ensure hazing is eradicated from our culture and from our Corps.

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 to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning or harmful.

In order to eliminate hazing from MALS-14, we will use a three step approach: educate, report, and take action. First, we will educate all Marines and Sailors on the activities and behavior that constitute hazing as well as the steps necessary to prevent its occurrence. Second, we will inform every Marine or Sailor in the chain of command of their duty to report incidents of hazing. I expect every leader in the squadron, no matter their rank, to actively participate in these two steps. Finally, I will take aggressive disciplinary action against anyone who engages or knowingly allows acts of hazing.

Our current operational tempo makes us particularly vulnerable to acts of hazing. With many Marines deploying to combat zones or training exercises, we are producing a large force of experienced Marines while still receiving into our ranks a constant flow of new Marines eager to fit into their new surroundings. There will be zero tolerance for acts of hazing, whether it is intended to be a form of initiation, retribution, or just meant as a joke. There is no place for these activities in the Marine Corps or in this squadron. Hazing can and must be eliminated.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Bolduc".

J. M. BOLDUC

Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer, MALS-14