

COMMANDING OFFICER MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 542 HAZING PREVENTION POLICY



Hazing is defined by MCO 1700.28B 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 also be verbal or psychological in nature.” Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing does not eliminate the culpability of the perpetrator.

Hazing can include the practice of using rituals, initiation rites, christening or other similar activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group, position or rank. Initiation rites can broadly range from benign pranks to abuse or criminal misconduct. Hazing has no place in the Marine Corps and will not be tolerated in Marine Attack Squadron 542 at any level or in any form. All members of Marine Attack Squadron 542 will read and understand the contents of MCO 1700.28B, and this letter will ensure the Marine Corps Policy on the prohibition of hazing is fully understood.

There are no “rites of passage” in this squadron. Hazing damages the trust within the command and the relationship between leaders and their Marines. Isolating, hazing or persecuting individuals is damaging to not only the victim but also to the moral fabric of our unit as a whole and adversely affects morale and our ability to complete our mission. The day a Marine checks into this Command they are a Tiger; a member of this family with zero “strings attached”. I expect every Marine to welcome them with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Any violation, attempted violation, or solicitation of another to violate MCO 1700.28B, will subject involved members to potential administrative or disciplinary action under Article 92 (and/or other applicable articles) of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Reprisal actions against any victim(s) or witness(es) of hazing incidents are strictly prohibited. If there is a perception or impression of hazing of any form, you must take action to stop it immediately. Every Marine and Sailor in this command is responsible for ensuring they immediately report any hazing incidents using their chain of command. All Marines and Sailors must know reporting incidents of hazing can be done without fear of reprisal of any kind.

Again, hazing has no place in the Marine Corps and will not be tolerated in Marine Attack Squadron 542 at any level or in any form. This policy applies to all Marines and Sailors, on or off-duty, on leave, liberty or during deployment...there are no exceptions! Treat your brother and sisters in arms with respect and dignity; like you, they are a United States Marine!

For further information, education, and resources contact your squadron Hazing Prevention Representative SSgt Charles F. Wasson.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John D. Ferguson'.

John D. Ferguson

Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, Marine Attack Squadron 542

REF: MARINE CORPS ORDER 1700.28B

