

COMMANDING OFFICER MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 14 PROHIBITION OF HAZING 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 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, but is not limited to initiation or congratulatory acts that involve physically striking another, piercing another's skin in any manner, verbally berating another, encouraging another to excessively consume alcohol, or encouraging another to engage in illegal, harmful, demeaning, or dangerous acts. Hazing occurs in many forms and will not be tolerated in any form or fashion.

Unfortunately, some still confuse hazing with events conducted to enhance morale, esprit de corps, pride, professionalism, and unit cohesiveness. This could not be further from the reality as hazing runs directly contrary to our ethos of "taking care of our own." It erodes our institutional character by disrespecting our most precious asset – our Marines and Sailors.

1. All members of MAG-14 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.
2. No Marine, or other service member attached to MAG-14, may engage in hazing or consent to acts of hazing being committed upon them.
3. No commander or individual in a supervisory position may, by act, word, deed, omission, condone or ignore hazing if they know or reasonably should have known that hazing may have or did occur.
4. It is the responsibility of every Marine and Sailor to ensure that hazing does not occur in any form at any level. Every service member has the responsibility to make the appropriate authorities aware of any and all violations of this policy.
5. 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 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The order does not prevent charging those who have engaged in acts of hazing under other applicable UCMJ articles. The order is a punitive, lawful, general order. Reprisal actions against any victim(s) or witness(es) of hazing incidents are strictly prohibited.
6. Commanding Officers and their senior enlisted leaders must be informed immediately of any allegations of hazing. It is the duty of every member of MAG-14 to ensure that hazing is not allowed, and that all personnel are treated with genuine dignity, fairness, and respect. All members of MAG-14 have earned their right to be either Marines or Sailors. **There are NO additional requirements to be a member of this Marine Aircraft Group.** We will treat each other with the dignity and respect that is expected as professionals.

For further information, education, and resources contact your squadron Equal Opportunity Representative, the MAG-14 Equal Opportunity Representative, First Lieutenant Adam L. McCoy at 252-466-7210, or the Command Equal Opportunity Manager Captain Terry A. McCoy at 252-466-3230.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric E. Austin". The signature is stylized and written over a faint, large watermark of the Marine Aircraft Group 14 emblem.

ERIC E. AUSTIN
COMMANDING OFFICER
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 14