



## Marine Air Support Squadron 6



### Commanding Officer's Hazing Policy Statement

Hazing is contrary to our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. As such, the squadron's policy on hazing is the same that exists elsewhere in the Marine Corps: (1) hazing is prohibited; (2) it has no place in this command; and (3) it will not be tolerated.

Per MCO 1700.28, hazing is defined as any conduct whereby one military member, regardless of Service or rank, causes another to suffer or be exposed to an activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, or oppressive. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any form or initiation or congratulatory act that involves physically striking another to inflict pain, 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.

Soliciting or coercing another to participate in 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.

There is no basis for confusing command-approved customs and traditions (e.g., mess nights, the Birthday Ball, the earning of a MCMAP belt) or with purported "rites of passage" or "initiation ceremonies." In contrast to the former, which helps to build morale and foster esprit de corps, the latter degrades the individuals targeted and negatively impacts the unit's ability to accomplish the mission. Hazing is not a means to correct military deficiencies; more effective legal means exist such as counseling, Extra Military Instruction (EMI), and Non-judicial punishment (NJP) to correct Marines and Sailors.

It is the absolute duty of every Marine and Sailor to immediately report any allegations or indications of hazing and there should be no fear of reprisal for doing so. I expect any and all hazing allegations will be reported to me, regardless of when and where the conduct at issue occurred. I will take each allegation seriously.

In short, hazing is contrary to our core values, and it will not be tolerated.

Semper Fidelis,

T.V. MATTHEWS

Commanding