



Marine Air Support Squadron 1 Commanding Officer's Hazing Policy Statement

"Marines take care of their own" or "Marines take care of Marines." How many times have we heard this? Yet, it is discouraging to think that there may still be people within our Corps that think humiliating and potentially injuring another Marine can be explained away as ritualistic rites of passage. Worse, that the hazing is simply used to intimidate or coerce another Marine. There is nothing unclear about the Marine Corps posture on hazing. Self respect, respect for others, and leadership is the key. All Marines are leaders. Leaders care and have an obligation to act to ensure the well being and dignified treatment of their fellow Marines. All Marines need to be ever vigilant of the signs and have the courage to take appropriate action. Confidence and trust in fellow Marines, unit leadership, cohesion, and combat readiness are at stake. I challenge all Chieftains to do what is right, honorable, and never tolerate hazing or any other practice that is morally wrong. All members of the command should understand what appropriate actions to take from informal to formal. While immediate individual action may be necessary to prevent or stop unacceptable behavior, it is imperative that the chain of command be involved to ensure that there is accountability and a command climate that is fair and transparent, while respect and dignity are maintained.

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Commanding