

Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on Hazing

Hazing is contrary to our ethos of "taking care of our own," and violates the high standards of virtuous conduct and core values earned by Marines who have served our Corps honorably since its inception. There are no "Initiations," or "Rites of Passage," within the 6th Marine Corps District.

Hazing is also contrary to our core values and is prejudicial to good order and discipline! Whether on recruiting duty or the operating forces, we are expected to adhere to these values. **Hazing violates our institutional character and disrespects our most precious asset – our Marines and Sailors.** Therefore, any actions such as hazing or maltreatment that demeans the dignity of another person, to include reprisal will absolutely not be tolerated in the 6th Marine Corps District.



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, 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 liability of the perpetrator.

Hazing can include but is not limited to the following: any form of 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 dangerous acts; playing abusive or ridiculous tricks; threatening or offering violence or bodily harm to another; striking; branding; taping; tattooing; shaving; greasing; painting; requiring excessive physical exercise beyond what is required to meet standards; "pinning;" "tacking on;" "blood winging;" or the forced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or any other substance.

Hazing is not limited to superior-subordinate relationships. It may also occur between peers or may involve actions toward senior military personnel by those junior in rank to them.

Hazing is a leadership, readiness and war-fighting issue. **Hazing works counter to our mission accomplishment efforts and, most importantly, removes the dignity and respect to which we are all entitled. Let me be clear! Hazing is prohibited and will not be tolerated.** Those who violate this policy will be held accountable. If you believe that you are a victim of hazing or reprisal, notify your chain of command via Request Mast or contact the 6th Marine Corps District Equal Opportunity Representative, Capt. Barry J. Morris at (843) 228-2085 immediately for assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. J. Bowers". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

W. J. BOWERS
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer