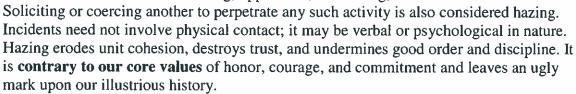## COMMANDING GENERAL'S
STATEMENT ON HAZING

Any form of hazing is **expressly forbidden** within the Marine Corps and will not be tolerated within the 1st Marine Logistics Group. Hazing is defined as any conduct whereby a military member, regardless of service or rank and without proper authority, causes another military member, 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. Incidents need not involve physical contact; it may be verbal or psychological in nature. Hazing erodes unit cohesion, destroys trust, and undermines good order and discipline. It is **contrary to our core values** of honor, courage, and commitment and leaves an ugly mark upon our illustrious history.

Hazing includes, but is not limited to, rites of passage, branding, striking, nonsensical PT, forced consumption of food or drink, pinning, and forms of initiation or congratulatory acts which involve physical or emotional harm. It can occur when no malicious intent is present and regardless of a person's willingness to participate. Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing are not a defense to violating this policy, and all perpetrators will be held accountable.

Hazing is a leadership issue, and I expect leaders at every level to provide proper mentorship and supervision to ensure this type of corrosive behavior does not occur. Furthermore, commanders must foster an environment that is conducive to the reporting of hazing incidents without fear of reprisal. Any Marine or Sailor involved directly or indirectly in hazing will be subject to disciplinary action under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It is every Marine and Sailor's duty to understand this policy and adhere strictly to my guidance.

Any individual filing a legitimate complaint will not be subject to any form of reprisal, as outlined in DoD Directive 7050.06, Military Whistleblower Protection. If you are the victim of hazing or witness an incident, use the following avenues to seek redress:

- Inform your chain of command. If your immediate supervisors are involved, request mast to your Commanding Officer or to me, the Commanding General.
- Call the 1st MLG Inspector General at 760-481-8127

D. A. OTTIGNON
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps