



26TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT COMMANDING OFFICER POLICY STATEMENT



HAZING

INTENT: The 26 MEU Team will maintain an environment where the value of each member is respected and protected. Through disciplined adherence to our core values, and accountability for our actions, 26 MEU members of all ranks will actively maintain an environment that is free of hazing and demeaning behavior, while actively promoting the personal and professional growth of each individual.

Hazing is prohibited. Marines, the only rite of passage to earn the title “Marine” is recruit or officer training. I expect all Marines to treat each other with the respect the title “Marine” deserves. The same holds true for the Sailors assigned to our unit. Our Sailors are integral Teammates and critical to our ability to accomplish our missions.

ALL Marines and Sailors are fellow warriors. Our new joins, especially our young Marines, are the lifeblood and future of our Corps. We will mentor, train and educate them to assume the mantle of responsibility and carry on our unit’s and our Corps’ proud warfighting legacy. All will be treated and trained fairly and with the respect the future leaders of our Corps deserve.

My policy of no hazing should not be confused with weakness or lackadaisical training. As an expeditionary warfighting organization, our ultimate measure of effectiveness is the defeat of the enemy by disciplined violence to shatter our adversary’s will to fight. To out-compete our enemies, we must out-train and out-think them. I expect the 26 MEU Team to train hard, train smart, and train safely. Nowhere in this training continuum is hazing appropriate. Only through overcoming shared adversity will we build a stronger, more cohesive team with the Fighting Spirit and resolve necessary to win on any battlefield, anywhere, at any time.

Hazing is any conduct whereby a service member or DoD employee, without proper military or other governmental purpose, but with a nexus to military service, physically or psychologically injures or creates a risk of injury to service members for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, change in status, or continued membership in the military or government organization. I expect leaders of all ranks to use good judgment in the conduct of training. If tough, realistic training is being conducted by all members of your team (not individuals) to increase the collective warfighting capabilities of your unit, then you are likely on solid ground.

Members of the 26 MEU will report all suspected acts of hazing to their chain of command or Equal Opportunity Advisor. Leaders will stop any hazing incidents immediately. Substantiated cases of hazing will result in administrative or disciplinary action. To seek information on hazing and reporting policies, contact the unit Equal Opportunity Coordinator (EOC) or Equal Opportunity Advisor, Ms. Mika Haberlin, at 910-467-1980.


J. B. REID
COMMANDING OFFICER


C. R. TAYLOR
SERGEANT MAJOR