MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 273
HAZING POLICY STATEMENT

29 July 2013

Hazing is contrary to our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment and is prejudicial to good order and discipline. It is a willful and demeaning act that degrades victims' and witnesses' abilities to function effectively within their units. At its core, hazing creates an environment of fear and reprisal, destroying the teamwork, combat readiness, and the trust and confidence central to unit cohesion. Hazing is contrary to our ethos of "taking care of our own" and stains the virtuous conduct and soldierly repute earned by those who have served honorably since our Corps' inception. Additionally, it contradicts the "Respect" to our Marines and Sailors contained within and integral to my Commander's Philosophy/Enduring Intent. Those who commit acts of hazing violate our institutional character and damage our most precious asset -Marines and Sailors.

Hazing, as defined by SECNAVINST 1610.2A, is 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 culpability of the perpetrator.

Marine Corps Order (MCO) 1700.28B "Hazing" is our institution's directive that promulgates policy prohibiting hazing, establishes enforcement guidelines, and identifies assistance to hazing victims and witnesses. All Marines of MWSS-273 will familiarize themselves with the MCO's content. Any violation, attempted violation, or solicitation of another to violate this MCO, may subject involved members to adverse administrative or disciplinary action under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). This does not preclude charging those who have engaged in acts of hazing under other applicable Articles of the UCMJ to include, but not limited to, Article 80 (attempts), Article 81 (conspiracy), Article 92 (violation of a lawful general order), Article 93 (cruelty and maltreatment), Article 124 (maiming), Article e 128 (assault), Article 133 (conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman), and Article 134 (drunk and disorderly y conduct, and/or solicitation). This MCO is a punitive lawful general order. Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing are not a defense to violating this Order.

As the Commanding Officer of MWSS-273, I will be informed immediately of any allegations of hazing. Anyone who feels he or she has been the subject of hazing and reports the allegations, or anyone whose Squadron leadership believes was the subject of hazing, will be considered to be a victim or witness as defined in MCO 5800.14. I will direct the conduct of a preliminary investigation of every reported incident of hazing in accordance with JAGINST 5800.7F (JAGMAN). All personnel shall exercise extreme caution and sensitivity throughout the course of the investigation to minimize revictimization. The investigation should also focus on the climate that fostered hazing with a view toward improving the environment and preventing further hazing incidents.

In closing, hazing has no place in a disciplined and professional military force and remains unlawful, prohibited, and will not be tolerated. We must and will foster a command climate that eliminates any and all forms and fears of hazing. All personnel should remain vigilant for signs of hazing and respond appropriately when required.

J. B. STONE IV
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Commanding Officer, MWSS-273