

COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON HAZING

Our Marine Corps has only one "Rite of Passage" the Crucible established by General Krulak, where Recruits become Marines. This is a Marine Corps sanctioned event to determine if a person has the moral courage, mental breadth, and physical fortitude to become a United States Marine.



MCO 1700.28B defines hazing 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.

Hazing includes the practice of rituals and other activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group. In the past, many military members, especially Marines, have expressed that certain events and occurrences were to "earn their spurs." These events were not sanctioned and are considered hazing.

To be clear to all Security Battalion personnel: Hazing is detrimental to the morale and professional work environment that we strive to achieve every day, and it will not be tolerated. The people who live and work within the scope of Security Battalion's jurisdiction must have respect for those that serve and protect them 24/7. If they were to observe or hear of any form of hazing occurring within the Battalion, their trust and confidence in our ability to accomplish the mission would be adversely affected.

I charge all leaders, regardless of service or rank, to ensure that hazing does not occur. I am confident that all Security Battalion personnel will continue to treat each other with dignity and mutual respect, consistent with our Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Cato II".

R. E. CATO II
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Security Battalion