



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
1ST RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION
MARINE DIVISION (REIN)
CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA 92055-5584

IN REPLY REFER TO

1700.28

ADJ

18 Mar 08

RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION POLICY LETTER 004-08

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: BATTALION POLICY ON HAZING

Ref: (a) MCO 1700.28 (HAZING)
(b) JAGINST 5800.7C (JAGMAN)

1. Purpose. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the rules in First Reconnaissance Battalion regarding hazing.

2. Commander's Intent. That every Marine and Sailor in First Reconnaissance Battalion is treated with dignity and respect and that no Marine and Sailor find himself in violation of the Marine Corps Order and Battalion policy because he did not understand the proper boundaries of conduct.

3. Policy. There is no room in any professional military organization for abusive or humiliating conduct that degrades trust, esprit, and unit cohesion. There is also no room for ridiculous, childish, or sophomoric rituals for any purpose, including initiation or congratulatory purposes. Such conduct will not be tolerated in First Reconnaissance Battalion. Every Marine and Sailor in this Battalion will be treated with respect and dignity. It is the responsibility of leaders at every level to ensure that the welfare of our Marines and Sailors is protected in this regard.

a. Reference (a) is the Marine Corps order that prohibits hazing. It defines hazing as: any conduct whereby on military member, regardless of Service or rank, causes another military member, regardless of Service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to an activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, or oppressive.

b. Hazing includes any form of initiation or congratulatory act that involves: physical striking another to inflict pain; piercing another's skin; verbally berating another; encouraging others to excessively consume alcohol; encouraging others to engage in illegal, harmful, demeaning or dangerous acts. Soliciting or coercing others to participate in 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.

c. Specific guidelines for appropriate conduct:

Subj: BATTALION POLICY ON HAZING

(1) Hazing. We will strictly enforce the letter and intent of the Marine Corps' policy prohibiting hazing. None of the above behavior will be used to punish, motivate, or congratulate another serviceman. Furthermore, no Marine or Sailor will be initiated into a Company, Platoon, Team, or Section. Newly joined Marines and Sailors will be welcomed and integrated into the team through positive leadership. No Marine or Sailor will be required to wear a uniform item in an unauthorized manner or an unauthorized uniform item as means of harassment or initiation. Marines attending or awaiting Pre-BRC may be required to carry a sling rope for training purposes; sling ropes will be carried in a neat, uniform way. Milestone events, such as promotions, awards, and graduations will be professional and dignified.

(2) Incentive and Command Authorized PT. Incentive PT is NOT ALLOWED AT ANYTIME IN THIS COMMAND as a form of punishment or corrective tool. Unit leaders throughout First Reconnaissance Battalion will lead their units in regular, command-authorized physical training. Unit leaders may determine the duration, tempo, intensity, and frequency of PT in order to achieve legitimate training objectives, which may include building esprit and unit cohesion. Unit leaders will always perform physical training with their men.

(3) Remediation. In this Battalion we train to task, not to time. In other words, we train our Marines and Sailors until they achieve the required standard of performance. When Marines and Sailors fail to meet the required standard, then leaders will provide time for remediation until the standard is met. In all cases, leaders must use judgment to ensure that remediation is appropriate for the training objective and that does not slip into harassment.

(4) Extra Military Instruction (EMI). EMI is instruction in a phase of military duty in which an individual is deficient. It differs from remediation in that it may be applied to correct deficiencies in conduct, bearing, military appearance, and routine responsibilities and tasks. It must employ a bona fide training technique to correct the individual deficiency. Digging holes, filling sandbags, or any other type of manual labor is not a legitimate means of administering EMI and is prohibited as means of punishment. Authority to assign EMI rests with the Company Commanders and will not be delegated. In all cases EMI will be conducted in accordance with reference (b).



M. J. MOONEY