



**COMMANDING GENERAL, MARINE CORPS COMBAT  
DEVELOPMENT COMMAND AND DEPUTY COMMANDANT,  
COMBAT DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION  
POLICY STATEMENT ON HAZING**



Every member of MCCDC/CD&I plays a vital role in our success and has been entrusted with the responsibility of protecting one another. Our country expects no less from me, from you, or from our organization. To that end, hazing has no place in a disciplined and professional military force. Hazing destroys trust and undermines unit cohesion. Hazing harms our fellow Marines and Sailors. It is unlawful, prohibited, and will absolutely not be tolerated.

The Marines and Sailors under our charge are not simply a commodity, and the trust and confidence upon which they rely in their leadership are not merely words. We have within our ranks the finest men and women our country has to offer, and our values are truly the fabric that makes us different from any other organization in the world. It is what defines us as Marines.

All leaders will, and all other Marines are encouraged to read Marine Corps Order 5354.1E Hazing, in its entirety. Compliance is not optional. Commanders and all leaders will be vigilant for signs of hazing and respond swiftly and appropriately when required. I take this very seriously. This is a top priority and it will be treated as such. Report all allegations of hazing in accordance with MCO 3504.2A and MCO P5354.1E w/Ch1.



Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric M. Smith".

Eric M. Smith  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat  
Development Command; and Deputy Commandant,  
Combat Development and Integration