

# **Introduction to the Navy Policy on Hazing**

# Introduction

Military customs and traditions are an essential part of the Navy.

Ceremonies commemorate feats of bravery and significant events, such as:

- Graduations
- Chiefs' initiations
- "Crossing the line"



These form the basis upon which our Core Values were founded.



## Introduction (Cont.)

In the past, some of these traditions and rites of passage included hazing.

Hazing is:

- Degrading
- Embarrassing
- Dangerous—even *deadly*





## Introduction (Cont.)

Some Sailors claim that hazing:

- Is part of the Navy tradition
- Instills esprit de corps and unit cohesion
- Provides a sense of accomplishment



## Introduction (Cont.)

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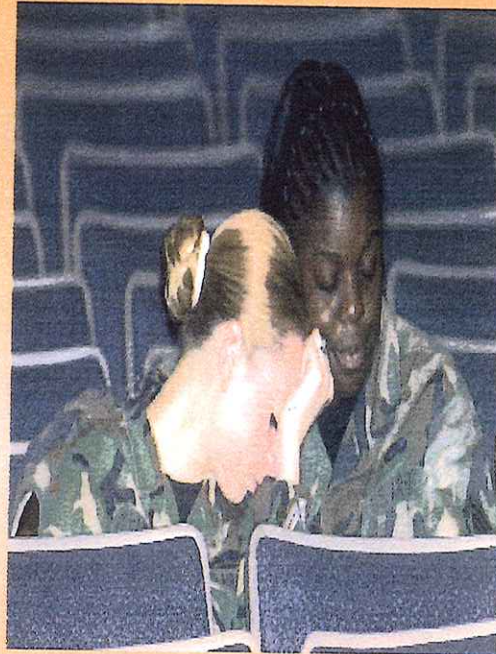
- Is part of the Navy tradition
- Instills esprit de corps and unit cohesion
- Provides a sense of accomplishment

The *truth* is that hazing actually has the *opposite* effect.

*Hazing is unprofessional, contrary to our Navy Core Values, and illegal.*

## Importance

Hazing is contrary to our Core Values because it degrades and diminishes the ability of victims to function within their units by destroying their confidence and trust in their shipmates.



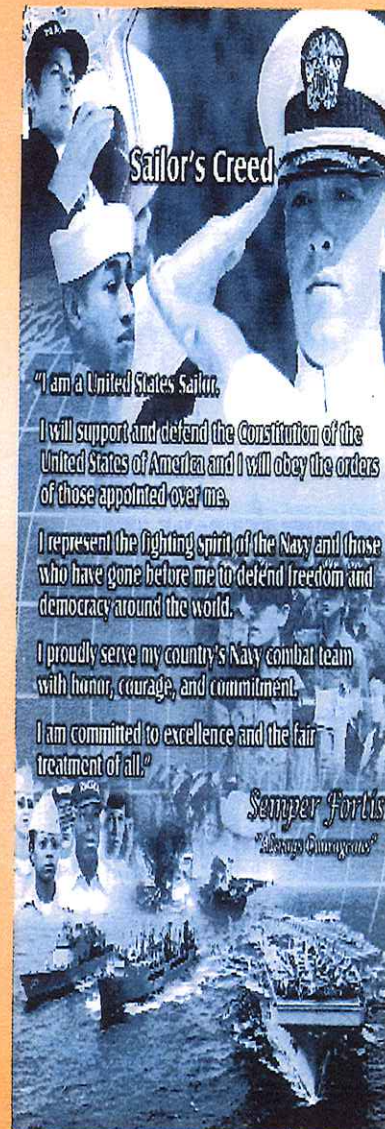
This is destructive to unit cohesion and combat readiness.



## Importance (Cont.)

Hazing is NOT part of our "time-honored traditions," and it has no place in the modern Navy.

It is important to know what hazing is and the Navy's policy on hazing so you can help ensure that every Sailor has the opportunity to be a productive and contributing member to combat readiness.





# Objectives

Upon completion of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Define hazing
- Identify examples of hazing
- Identify components of the Navy Policy on Hazing
- Identify consequences of violating the Navy Policy on Hazing
- Identify resulting actions when hazing is reported



# Outline

This lesson will help you understand your responsibilities regarding hazing by answering:

- ☐ What is Hazing?
- ☐ What is the Navy's Policy?
- ☐ What Happens When Hazing Is Reported?



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- ☐ What Happens When Hazing Is Reported?



## Definition

Hazing is any conduct whereby a servicemember (regardless of service or rank) without proper authority causes another servicemember (regardless of service or rank) to suffer or be exposed to any activity that is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful.

# Examples

Hazing includes:

- Playing abusive or ridiculous tricks
- Forcing or requiring the consumption of any substance
- Requiring excessive physical exercise beyond what is required to meet standards
- Branding
- Greasing
- Painting
- "Pinning," "tacking on," "blood wings"
- Shaving
- Striking
- Taping
- Tattooing
- Threatening or offering violence or bodily harm to another




## Non-Examples

Hazing does NOT include command-authorized activities, actions, or operations, such as:

- Administrative corrective measures
- Athletic events
- Contests, competitions, or other similar activities
- Extra military instruction
- Physical training
- Required training to prepare for missions or operations





Hazing is any conduct whereby a servicemember causes another servicemember to suffer or be exposed to any authorized activity designed to prepare for special operations.

A. True

B. False





Hazing is any conduct whereby a servicemember causes another servicemember to suffer or be exposed to any authorized activity designed to prepare for special operations.

A. True

B. False



Forcing a fellow Sailor to drink water is NOT hazing because water is essential to life and no harm will result.

A. True

B. False





Forcing a fellow Sailor to drink water is NOT hazing because water is essential to life and no harm will result.

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B. False



☒ What is Hazing?

☐ What is the Navy's Policy?

☐ What Happens When Hazing Is Reported?



# Policy

**HAZING  
IS  
PROHIBITED  
AND WILL  
NOT  
BE  
TOLERATED!**



Reprisals against any victim or witness of hazing are also prohibited.

# Sailors' Responsibilities

Sailors must:

- Ensure hazing does NOT occur
- Refuse to engage in hazing or consent to being hazed
- Report hazing to the appropriate authorities







## Supervisors' Responsibilities

Commanders or supervisors must ensure:

- All ceremonies and initiations comply with policy
- All servicemembers participating in command-authorized activities are treated with dignity and respect during these events

*You may NOT (by act, word, deed, or omission) allow or ignore hazing if you know, or reasonably should have known, that hazing may or did occur.*

## Consequences

SECNAVINST 1610.2 (series)—DON Policy on Hazing—is a *lawful general order*.

ANYONE WHO VIOLATES,  
ATTEMPTS TO VIOLATE, OR  
ATTEMPTS TO GET ANOTHER PERSON  
TO VIOLATE THIS POLICY  
IS SUBJECT TO  
APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION  
AND/OR  
ARTICLE 92 OF THE UCMJ.





What is the Navy's policy regarding hazing?

- A. The command won't ask, and you don't tell.
- B. Hazing is prohibited and will NOT be tolerated.
- C. Hazing is acceptable if the "victim" consents to it.
- D. Hazing is acceptable as long as no one gets hurt.

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**Identify TWO of your responsibilities as a Sailor regarding hazing.**

- A. Only haze if the "victim" gives consent.**
- B. Supervise good-natured hazing.**
- C. Report hazing.**
- D. Only get involved if the victim has NOT given consent.**
- E. Keep your mouth shut; look the other way.**
- F. Ensure that hazing does NOT occur.**



**Identify TWO of your responsibilities as a Sailor regarding hazing.**

A. Only haze if the "victim" gives consent.

B. Supervise good-natured hazing.

**C. Report hazing.**


D. Only get involved if the victim has NOT given consent.

E. Keep your mouth shut; look the other way.


**F. Ensure that hazing does NOT occur.**





 What are TWO of your responsibilities as a supervisor or commander regarding hazing?

- A. Ensure those participating in hazing sign a Release Form of Consent.
- B. Ignore hazing so you can deny knowledge if things go wrong.
- C. Ensure a medic attends all hazing events.
- D. Ensure subordinates are treated with dignity and respect.
- E. Personally supervise hazing.
- F. Ensure all ceremonies and initiations comply with policy.




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- F. Ensure all ceremonies and initiations comply with policy.**



If you violate the Navy Policy on Hazing, you may be charged with Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice—failure to obey a lawful general order.

A. True

B. False





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- ☒ What is Hazing?
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- ☐ What Happens When Hazing Is Reported?



## Process

The CO *must* be informed *immediately* of any allegation of hazing.

Every reported incident of hazing *must be investigated* to determine if the case is substantiated or unsubstantiated.



## Victims & Witnesses

Anyone who has been hazed or whose command believes may have been subjected to hazing will be considered a victim or witness.

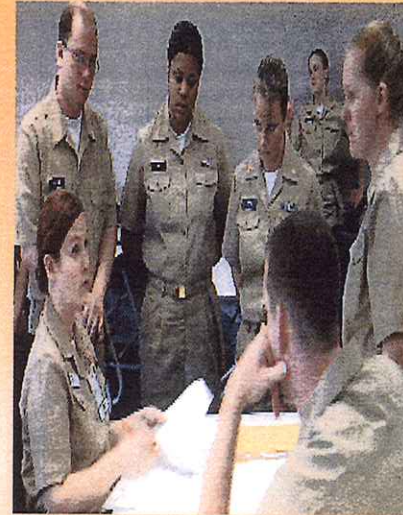




## Victims & Witnesses (Cont.)

Victims or witnesses will be:

- Advised of their rights
- Offered legal advice
- Offered medical assistance
- Offered counseling
- Advised of and given access to victim/witness advocacy services in accordance with policy





The CO will determine if an alleged hazing incident will be investigated.

A. True

B. False






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A. True

B. False



Hazing victims will be advised of their rights immediately and offered legal advice, medical assistance, and counseling as necessary.

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# Review

You should now be able to:

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- Identify components of the Navy Policy on Hazing
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- Identify resulting actions when hazing is reported

## Additional Resources

- SECNAVINST 1610.2 (series) - Department of the Navy (DON) Policy on Hazing
- SECDEF Memo 28 AUG 97 (NOTAL)
- SECNAVINST 5800.11 (series) - Victim and Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)
- OPNAVINST 3100.6 (series) - Special Incident Reporting
- OPNAVINST 5800.7 (series) - Victim and Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)
- MCO 1700.28 (series) - Hazing





# Inquiries or Suggestions

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