

1600
28 Aug 04

COMMANDING OFFICER'S MEMORANDUM 4-04

From: Commanding Officer, NROTC Unit, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Subj: COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON HAZING

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1610.2 (Series)
(b) University Policies for Student Life 2003

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide all personnel with my policy on hazing to eliminate any doubt or questions that you may have.
2. Hazing is prohibited by the Chief of Naval Operations, is a violation of Virginia State Law, and will not be tolerated in this unit at any time. This is based on the proposition that all people should be treated with dignity and respect at all times. Hazing is degrading and undermines military discipline, morale, and esprit de corps of the unit.
3. According to reference (a), hazing occurs "when individuals assume the authority to coerce our sailors to participate in cruel, humiliating, or meaningless acts." The definition of hazing according to reference (b) is:

"Any mental or physical requirement, request, or obligation placed upon any person which could cause discomfort, pain, fright, disgrace, injury, or which is personally degrading, or which violates any federal, state, or local statute or university policy, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding."

If there is any question about the definition of hazing, consult the "University Policies for Student Life" for further clarification and examples or ask the XO or me.

4. Violators of this policy will be dealt with severely, to include being permanently disenrolled from the Naval ROTC.
5. As members of the military service we must set a higher standard for moral conduct and live by that standard everyday. Don't let hazing weaken the strong fabric of our unit.

T. RUBENSTEIN

Copy to:
NROTC Unit Staff
VTCC