COMMANDING OFFICER’S MEMORANDUM 3-09

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) Virginia Tech Student Code of Conduct

1. Purpose. To provide Command policy on the prohibition of hazing.

2. Discussion.

   a. Reference (a) clearly states that hazing is prohibited by the Secretary of the Navy and will not be tolerated by any member of the Navy or Marine Corps, to include NROTC midshipmen. Additionally, hazing is a violation of Virginia State Law and is considered a serious violation of Virginia Tech university policy and is prohibited by Virginia Tech in all forms. Hazing, in any form, is degrading and undermines military discipline, morale, and esprit de corps of the unit, and is contrary to the Navy’s Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

   b. Definition.

      (1) Hazing is defined by reference (a) 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.”

      (2) Reference (b) defines hazing as “any mental or physical requirement, request, or obligation placed upon any person that could cause discomfort, pain, fright, disgrace or injury; that is personally degrading; or that violates any federal, state, or local statute or university policy, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.”
3. **Action.**

   a. Hazing will not be tolerated in my Command and violators of this policy will be held accountable. Midshipmen found in violation of this policy will go to a Performance Review Board and may be disenrolled from the Naval ROTC Program.

   b. Active Duty and civilian staff, and every midshipman will be familiar with the content of references (a) and (b).

   c. If there is any question about the definition of hazing, consult references (a) and (b) for further clarification and examples.

4. As members of the military service we must set a higher standard for moral conduct and live by that standard everyday. It is our responsibility to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect at all times. Do not let hazing weaken the strong fabric of our unit.

5. My point of contact for this policy is the Executive Officer.

   [Signature]

   D. P. FORGEY

Copy to:
NROTC Unit Staff
VTCC