

INFORMATION ABOUT: *Hazing*



Hazing is form of harassment that includes conduct through which Service members or DoD employees, without proper military or other governmental purpose, but with a nexus to military service, physically or psychologically injure or create a risk of physical or psychological injury to Service members for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, change in status or position within, or continued membership in any military DoD civil organization.

Why is prevention important?

Hazing is a form of harassment and is punishable by the Uniform Code of Military Justice under a variety of articles depending on the hazing action that took place.

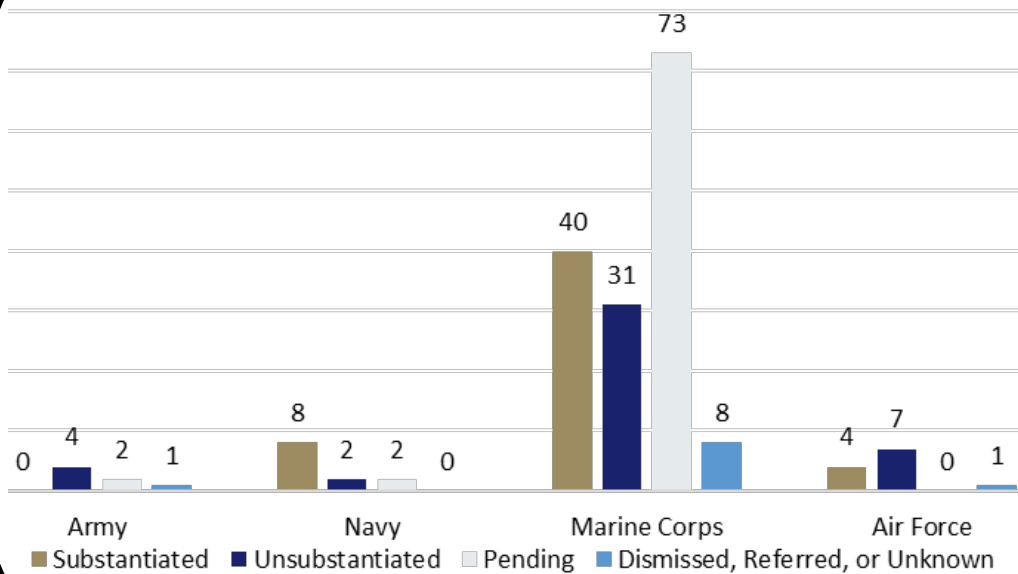
Targets of hazing can experience loss of sleep, decline of mental and emotional health, and PTSD.

Individuals who have been hazed may not realize the effects it has had on them and could suffer long term consequences.

In groups where hazing takes place, members often experience loss of trust, decreased work performance, and loss of personnel.

Even though the intent of hazing is to include or induct, it splits groups members into an "in-group" and an "out-group". Those who have achieved the status, and those who have not. Those who are willing to haze, and those who are not.

FY 2020 Disposition of Hazing Complaints



DoD Annual Report for Hazing Prevention and Response in the Armed Forces, 2020

Behavior Cues

- Being covered in dirt, rotten food, or bodily fluids
- Being asked to engage in tedious cleaning (such as toilets with a toothbrush) or to clean intentional messes from those in the hazing group
- Being asked to engage in excessive eating or drinking
- Being asked to eat non-food items, or rotting food, raw items, hot peppers, etc.
- Being asked to wear humiliating clothing or costumes
- Being exposed to the elements
- Being asked to complete tests or gauntlets for achieving something (such as sailing across a meridian)
- Being asked to engage in excessive calisthenics or physical exercise
- Being sleep deprived
- Assigned impossible or meaningless tasks
- Engaging in forced confinement
- Being asked to engage in total or partial nudity

Did you know?

The Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report for Hazing Prevention and response in the Armed Forces reported that the Military Service with the smallest population, the Marine Corps, reported the majority of the overall hazing complaints (n=152; 83 percent of all complaints received).

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Risk Factors

People who have been hazed are more likely to haze others.

Individuals most likely to be hazed:

- New to the group
- Low social status
- Minorities
- Those who over conform
- ranked E2-E3
- males
- have low trust in peers and leadership
- risk taker
- do not have a role model

Often, participants will justify hazing events because:

- They were following orders
- It is engrained at the foundational level
- It is a way of protecting the resources of the established group
- It measures dedication to the group



Resources

Visit

www.defenseculture.mil



Strategies

- Being aware of the risk factors among and within individuals
- Promote and encourage protective factors such as creating an inclusive environment
- Provide community resources, leadership engagement opportunities, training, and education
- At the command level - enforce standards, follow through on the consequences of unwanted behavior, and encourage an open-door policy for those wishing to report unwanted behaviors
- Engaging in bonding activities such as laser tag, sports competitions, engaging in community service
- Provide mentorship to new members and train mentors how to be a quality mentor.

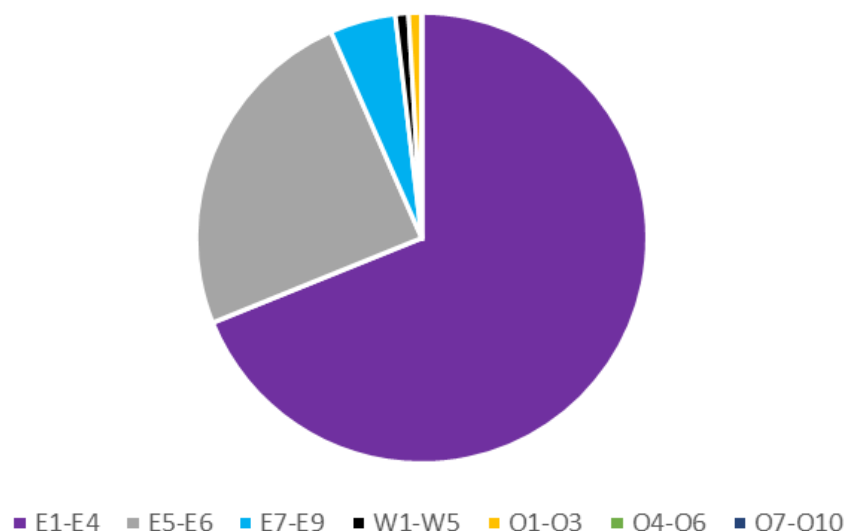


Bullying vs. Hazing

Bullying is defined as: "An act of aggression by a military member or members, or Department of Defense civilian employee or employees, with a nexus to military service or Department of Defense civilian employment, with the intent of harming a military member, Department of Defense civilian, or any other persons, either physically or psychologically, without a proper military or other governmental purpose. Bullying may involve the singling out of an individual from his or her co-workers, or unit, for ridicule because he or she is considered different or weak. It often involves an imbalance of power between the aggressor and the victim."

Hazing behaviors are designed to include or induct members into a group. Bullying behaviors are designed to exclude or separate an individual or members from a group.

FY 2020 Offenders by Pay Grade



DoD Annual Report for Hazing Prevention and Response in the Armed Forces, 2020