

Patuxent High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps

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Bullying/Harassment Policy

Patuxent High School Navy JROTC does not tolerate bullying, hazing, or harassment in any form. The Senior Naval Science Instructor (SNSI) and Naval Science Instructor will investigate and take timely and appropriate action upon receipt of any reports of bullying, hazing, or harassment. While the SNSI of the NJROTC unit is responsible for implementing bullying, hazing, and harassment prevention programs, the intent of the program is that it should be led by the NJROTC unit's cadet leadership. The unit's program must ensure cadets can report improper conduct without fear of reprisal and take corrective action as deemed necessary to prevent recurrence in accordance with school policies regarding misconduct.

NJROTC cadets should feel confident in their knowledge of hazing and bullying prevention, and apply that knowledge throughout their school and community. Cadets are to be role models for other students to emulate. As professionals there is no place for any form of hazing or bullying.

REPORTING

If a cadet experiences bullying or harassment, or witnesses others that do, they shall contact the senior leaders of the cadet chain of command, a NJROTC instructor, counselors or another trusted, school adult.

Any cadet, student, staff member, teacher, parent or other interested party may, at any time, report violations of this policy directly to the SNSI.

DEFINITIONS

a. **Hazing** is the practice of rituals and other activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group. Hazing is any action or situation, with or without the consent of the participants, which recklessly, intentionally, or unintentionally endangers the mental, physical, or academic health or safety of a student.

b. **Bullying** is any type of unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance with the intent to abuse, embarrass, control and/or harm the victim. Bullying can be physical, verbal or written (to include social media).

c. **Cyber bullying** is bullying that uses electronic communications devices, and it cannot be ignored as an avenue for bullying and sexual harassment. With the proliferation of social media, most students are aware of cyber bullying immediately and quite often know the perpetrator and the victim. However, most cyber bullying goes unreported. Nobody deserves to be bullied or sexually harassed, and it is our shared responsibility to ensure it doesn't happen.

d. **Sexual harassment** is bullying of a sexual nature and includes the creation of an atmosphere of fear or mistrust. Hazing/bullying is not acceptable in any form in the NJROTC program.

RESOURCES

An outstanding web resource for recognizing and dealing with bullying is [stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov). This site has several pages, videos and other resources to help with this problem.
(<http://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/training-center/index.html>)