



UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE BRIGADE COMMANDER
4301 JONES BRIDGE ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-4799
www.usuhs.edu



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MEMORANDUM FOR ALL USU MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Brigade Commander's Policy on Fraternization

1. Fraternization is the term traditionally used to identify personal relationships between service members of any rank, grade, or gender which compromise the chain of command, result in the appearance of partiality, or otherwise undermine good order and discipline. It applies to all relationships that contravene the customary bounds of acceptable senior-subordinate relationships.

2. Although most commonly applied to officer-enlisted relationships, fraternization also includes improper relationships and social interactions within the officer community and within the enlisted community. Fraternization is defined as:

a. Personal relationships between officer and enlisted that are unduly familiar and do not respect differences in grade or:

b. Personal relationships between officer members or between enlisted members that are unduly familiar, do not respect differences in grade or rank, are prejudicial to good order and discipline, or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the military service. Prejudice to good order and discipline or discredit to the service may result from, but not be limited to circumstances which:

- (1) Call into question a senior's objectivity
- (2) Result in actual or apparent preferential treatment
- (3) Undermine the authority of a senior; or
- (4) Compromise the chain of command

3. Fraternization is unacceptable conduct and will not be condoned or tolerated in any form. All personnel will maintain the highest standards of honesty, integrity and conduct to assure proper performance of duties and enhance public trust. Fraternization violates those standards and undermines good order, authority, and high unit morale.

4. The chain of command will be used to resolve instances of fraternization at the lowest possible level within the command. Supervisors will ensure that all instances of fraternization are dealt with swiftly, fairly, and effectively. Administrative and disciplinary action will be taken to correct such inappropriate behavior.


S. M. HUSSEY