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OFFICE OF THE  
BRIGADE COMMANDER

March 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY MILITARY PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Brigade Commander's Policy on Unprofessional Relationships and Fraternization

1. Unprofessional relationships are relationships, whether pursued on or off-duty, between Service members of any rank, grade, or gender, whether officer or enlisted as well as relationships between military personnel and civilian employees or contractors which compromise the chain of command, reasonably result in the appearance of favoritism, misuse of office or position, or otherwise undermine good order and discipline.
2. There is a long-standing and well-recognized custom in the military service, as well as set forth in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and military service regulations that officers and enlisted personnel shall not fraternize with each other. Under Article 134 of the UCMJ, fraternization is defined as a relationship between an officer and an enlisted member that violates the customary bounds of acceptable behavior of Service members and is prejudicial to good order and discipline, or was of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces.
3. Prejudice to good order and discipline or discredit to the Service may result from, but not be limited to circumstances which:
  - (a) Call into question a senior's objectivity;
  - (b) Result in actual or apparent preferential treatment;
  - (c) Undermine the authority of a senior; or
  - (d) Compromise the chain of command
4. Unprofessional relationships are contrary to good order and discipline and are counterproductive to readiness and mission accomplishment and will not be tolerated. The chain of command will be used to resolve instances of unprofessional relationships and fraternization at the lowest appropriate level within the command. Supervisors will ensure that all instances of unprofessional relationships and fraternization are dealt with swiftly, fairly, and effectively. Administrative and disciplinary action will be taken to correct such inappropriate behavior.

  
JEROME L. BULLER  
COL, MC, USA  
Brigade Commander