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28 Aug 04

COMMANDING OFFICER'S MEMORANDUM 3-04

From: Commanding Officer, NROTC Unit, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Subj: COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON FRATERNIZATION

1. Fraternization, inappropriate relationships between seniors and subordinates, has a serious negative impact on the "good order and discipline" of a command and is a punishable offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. There exists clear guidelines for those of us on active duty as to what does and does not constitute fraternization. However, such guidelines are lacking within the Naval Battalion for the Midshipmen, Officer Candidates (OCs), and Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) students.

2. In order to establish clear guidelines for the Midshipmen Battalion and to better prepare you for service in the Navy or Marine Corps, the following is published as the Command's policy:

a. Upperclassman Midshipmen, will not date any freshmen, or fourth class within the Naval Battalion. This prohibition does not apply to a civilian student.

b. First, second, and third class midshipmen may date among themselves provided that a senior/subordinate relationship does not exist between them. A senior/subordinate relationship exists if the midshipmen are in the same chain of command in the NROTC (or VTCC) or if the senior has any input into the performance evaluation of the subordinate. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the midshipmen involved to bring it to the attention of the Battalion Commander. Under such circumstances, the subordinate midshipman will be transferred to another Naval Battalion company. If the senior midshipman happens to be the Battalion Commander or Executive Officer, the Commanding Officer reserves the authority to remove that midshipman from their billet without prejudice.

c. No Midshipman will date an OC, MECEP, or any active duty member of the Staff.

3. If there is any doubt about a situation and whether or not it constitutes fraternization, the point of contact is the NROTC Executive Officer.

T. RUBENSTEIN

Copy to:
NROTC Unit Staff
VTCC