



AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS
DIRECTOR GENERAL CADETS - AIR FORCE

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CB-AF/2013/OUT/AB14604258

Local Area Commander
 Wagga Wagga Police Station
 217-219 Tarcutta Street
 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

ALLEGATIONS OF POSSIBLE CRIMINAL SEXUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN AN AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADET STAFF MEMBER AND CADET

1. I am writing in regards to allegations Christopher Robert Nisbet Adams, a 23 year old in the Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC), having sexual relationships with two 17 year old cadets.
2. The allegations relate to two Cadets under his care and instruction during a cadet camp at Royal Australian Air Force Base Wagga Wagga, NSW, between 6-27 January 2013. Leading Aircraftsman (AAFC) Adams was an Instructor of Cadets and Executive Instructor during the camps and as a result; all cadets were under his responsibility for safety, care, training and development. Instructors of Cadets are not members of the Defence Force and are not subject to Defence disciplinary action under the Defence Force Discipline Act of 1982.
3. I understand that details of the allegations have been provided by Wing Commander (AAFC) Wayne Laycock to Detective Sergeant Sean McWhirter, Auburn Police on 18 June 2013 and that the matter was subsequently being considered by the police at Wagga Wagga. I am also advised that one of the female cadets, ^{CJE} has made a formal complaint to Hurstville police with her mother, Ms ^{CJO}, on 26 and 27 June 2013.
4. Wing Commander (AAFC) Wayne Laycock has also provided information on 18 June 2013 to Detective Sergeant Sean McWhirter, Auburn Police, about further allegations that Leading Aircraftsman (AAFC) Adams had sexual relationships with a 17 year old female ^{CJH} while providing after school tutoring for schoolwork. Ms ^{CJH} lodged the complaint with her father to the Australian Air Force Cadets because the initial contact Christopher Adams had with Ms ^{CJH} was through the Australian Air Force Cadets.
5. As the allegations involve potential breach of NSW law, the Australian Air Force Cadets has stopped all investigations in this matter until the NSW Police conclude their inquiries and any consequent action.
6. The Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) is a youth development organisation for cadets aged 13 to 20 years old. Cadets receive youth development opportunities under the supervision of AAFC Officers of Cadets and Instructors of Cadets. The minimum age in the AAFC for Officer of Cadets is 19 years and the minimum age for Instructor of Cadets is 18 years.
7. As part of youth development in a military context, Cadets are organised into a rank structured environment and advanced through the ranks by completing training courses. This process builds an entrenched trust in superiors ranks and instructors which, although

necessary in the military context, also carries the potential for abuse. The analogy here is that the Officers of Cadets and Instructors of Cadets have the same responsibility as a teacher at a school for the safety, care, training and development of the cadets. This is further emphasised considering parents of Cadets entrust their children to the AAFC and have a legitimate expectation of safety, care, training and development of the their children. As a result, it is essential to address unacceptable and unlawful behaviours swiftly and appropriately.

8. As the AAFC and its members are not subject to the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982, the AAFC does not have the capacity to deal with this level of behaviour. Although the Cadet Forces Regulations 1977 enable a code of conduct to be enforced, the most serious penalties that can be enforced for a breach of the code of conduct are discharge from the AAFC or suspension of duties. If these allegations are correct, these penalties are completely inadequate to address this type of behaviour.

9. Accordingly, I request your urgent action to investigate these matters and take appropriate action as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,



D.G. GREEN, AM
Air Commodore
Director General Cadets - Air Force

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