



AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS
DIRECTOR GENERAL CADETS - AIR FORCE

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 217-219 Tarcutta Street
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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 Aircraftman (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.

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, 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 Aircraftman (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 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 over time. This process builds a 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

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Deleted: philosophy we give teenage cadets training and development opportunities under the supervision of Officers of Cadets or Instructors of Cadets. This training and development takes place at weekly parades, camps at Defence bases, weekend activities, and promotion training camps.¶ As each cadet passes a milestone in their training and development they are rewarded by promotion to a higher cadet rank, starting with Leading Air Cadet then Cadet Corporal, Cadet Sergeant and Cadet Flight Sergeant. Beyond that rank, senior cadets may seek to become either a Cadet Warrant Officer and Cadet Under Officer. Promotion to Cadet Corporal, Cadet Sergeant, Cadet Warrant Officer or Cadet Under Officer follows after successful completion of a specific training course at a Defence base.

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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July 2013

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<#>Cadet Warrant Officers and Cadet Under Officers are also given the opportunity to further develop their skills by working as cadet instructors on the promotion courses. While delivering this instruction they are under the management and supervision of Officers of Cadets and Instructors of Cadets.¶
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<#>10. The Staff Code of Conduct for the AAFC is signed by every Officer of Cadets and Instructor of Cadets. The AAFC Policy Manual is explicit in stating:¶
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<#> "The AAFC provides an environment that fosters and develops young people and is one in which it is particularly important for staff to be aware of the potential for severe adverse affects if inappropriate relationships are formed. In general, professional relationships between all AAFC members build upon the team ethic and add to the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation. These types of relationships are healthy and should be developed and fostered by all levels of management.¶
<#> However, the AAFC and its staff also have an on-going duty of care responsibility towards all cadets. Parents and the community trust the AAFC and its staff ... [1]

Deleted: <#>In this specific case Leading Aircraftsman (AAFC) Christopher Robert Nisbet Adams was an Instructor of Cadets age 23 and was appointed Executive Instructor for the promotion camps held at RAAF Wagga Wagga over the period 6 to 27 January 2013. As part of the camp, the Detachment Commander reminded all staff of their duty under the Code of Conduct and Behaviour Policy on the first day of the camp. Female cadet CJE CJE aged 17, and female cadet CJE were appointed to the camp to be a cadet instructors on the promotion courses for cadets. All cadets on the camps regardless of age or rank were under the responsibility of LAC (AAFC) Adams for safety, care, training and development. The parents/guardians of the cadets had signed written permissi ... [2]

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