MEMORANDUM FOR AFROTC REGION AND DETACHMENT COMMANDERS

FROM: AFROTC/CC
551 East Maxwell Blvd
Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6106

SUBJECT: CADET DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

1. This letter is to communicate AFROTC policy regarding cadets’ use of drugs and alcohol and the potential penalties for violating that policy. The college experience has always been a test of students’ integrity in these and many other areas, and peer pressure can be intense and constant. The policy set out in paragraphs 1.a. and 1.b. must be communicated to every cadet and cadre member, and reviewed with every cadet every semester thereafter.

   a. Cadets will be investigated for disenrollment or dismissal for any use, possession, distribution, or other involvement with controlled substances. Disenrollment or dismissal is not contingent on disposition of the case in the school administrative process, civil court, or criminal court.

   b. Cadets will comply with all state, local, and school regulations governing alcoholic beverages and controlled substances. This includes only purchasing, possessing, and consuming alcohol when and where it is legal to do so. Additionally, providing alcohol to cadets not of legal drinking age is behavior not conforming to military retention standards. Alcohol-related incidents by their nature, regardless of how they may be resolved at school or in court, bring into question cadets’ level of maturity and judgment expected of officer candidates. While there is not a one-size-fits-all answer regarding disciplinary action, competition to earn an officer commission is too keen to risk by making alcohol-related mistakes or, far worse, crimes.

2. AFROTC is not, however, anti-alcohol. It’s omnipresent on our campuses, and prohibition for our cadets isn’t the solution. We still have the one-waiver policy for GMC Minor in Possession offenses. We won’t ban alcohol in a certainly futile effort to eliminate high-risk behaviors associated with its misuse. Instead, we support the Air Force’s Culture of Responsible Choices (CoRC), recently introduced by Lt Gen Lichte, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff. The Culture of Responsible Choices is centered on leadership-driven change. Let me state AFROTC policy on alcohol and ROTC events:

   a. Our training events--Leadership Labs, Field Training, and Professional Development Training--are too critical and time and resource constrained to allow alcohol to divert focus from their purpose.
b. Dining In and Dining Out, while also training events, are opportunities to introduce and engrain a culture of responsible choices in social settings. Detachment Commanders are the senior leaders I expect to assess their own cadet corps and authorize, withhold, or modify alcohol availability at these “leadership labs.” Determine what your corps needs to know and what it can handle, and educate and mentor accordingly. Whatever the Commander’s determination, continued emphasis must be placed on responsible and legal choices as to whether to drink, taking care of each other, and accountability for decisions. Encourage such programs as “wingman,” designated driver, and the 0-0-1-3 concept (0 underage drinking, 0 DUls, 1 drink per hour, 3 drinks per night) for those cadets of legal age who choose to drink. I’d also ask you to consider directing your cadre to abstain from alcohol use at events where you allow of-age cadets to drink.

c. To support your CoRC implementation efforts, toolkits are posted as a resource at http://afcrossroads.com/websites/core.cfm. They can be tailored to fit your Detachment and local variables.

3. In summary, AFROTC policy is:

- No drugs.

- No alcohol during Field Training, PDTs, or standard Leadership Labs.

- Responsible and legal alcohol use at social events as DETCO determines.

4. Your Region Commanders and I are always available to discuss ideas and help you make the right decisions for your Detachments. This letter rescinds ARMS-AFROTC-05-114.

WILLIAM R. KUNZWEILER, COL, USAF
Commander