Summary of Cadet Protection Enhancements

CIVIL AIR PATROL
NATIONAL CADET TEAM
26 JANUARY 2018
CPP Continues to Stand Upon Five Pillars

1. **Screening**, with an in-person interview at the unit and a criminal background check using fingerprints
2. **Standards of Practice**, with two-deep leadership as the key standard
3. **Monitoring** of local practices by leaders, seniors, and cadets
4. **Reporting** of reasonable suspicions of abuse
5. **Training**, with the Cadet Protection Basic, Advanced, and Wingman courses

There are no significant changes to the overall strategy and key CPP rules.
Overview of Enhancements

What’s new in cadet protection?

1. Bullying
2. Adult / cadet fraternization
3. Sexting
4. Responding to boundary concerns
5. Mandatory reporting for cadets aged 18+
6. Mandatory discipline for certain CPP violations
7. Process chart
8. Administrative updates to two pamphlets and a visual aid
Bullying

Although local leaders have never tolerated bullying, cadet-on-cadet bullying is now explicitly prohibited.

Borrowing from the federal StopBullying.gov program, CAP defines bullying as:

“Unwanted, aggressive behavior among cadets that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes making threats, spreading rumors, and attacking someone physically or verbally.”

CAP is now explicitly instructing local leaders to intervene if they have reason to believe bullying has occurred or is taking place.

See §§ 1.5.5 and 2.3
Adult to Cadet Fraternization

Adult leaders continue to be prohibited from dating cadets under the “bright line rule.” More context has been added to this section.

The role of the adult leader is that of a mentor / supervisor. Accordingly, the adult leader must be an authority figure.

When adult leaders date cadets, they allow a peer-to-peer relationship to develop which, in turn, diminishes their status as mentors, supervisors, and authority figures.

Any “consensual” relationship between an adult leader and a cadet is problematic because it is potentially abusive or predatory.

See §§ 1.2.5 and 2.2.3
“Sexting” is the practice of sending or posting sexually suggestive text messages or images including nude or seminude photographs via cell phones, tablet, or any electronic device.

No member shall send a sexually suggestive text message or image to a cadet, nor send or post to the internet sexually suggestive texts or images about a cadet. Similarly, no member shall request or encourage a cadet to send or post to the internet sexually suggestive texts or images.

See §§ 1.5.12 and 2.2.4
Responding to Boundary Concerns

Incorporates into the regulation basic principles on responding to boundary concerns that were previously found only in the training materials. Some suggested best practices include:

- Peer correction, regardless of any grade / position difference among adult leaders
- Closer supervision
- Remedial training, i.e.: retaking the Cadet Protection Basic Course
- Progressive disciplinary action, i.e.: formal reprimands, suspensions, demotions, terminations

See § 2.9
Mandatory Reporting for Cadets Aged 18+

Cadets aged 18+ are now required to report reasonable suspicions of abuse.

All other cadets remain encouraged to report reasonable suspicions of abuse, but CAP will not hold them accountable if they do not report.

See § 4.2
Mandatory Discipline

Adult leaders who violate certain key provisions of CPP will face a set of minimum disciplinary measures, versus leaving discipline up to the local commander. Those key provisions of the CPP are:

- Permitting inappropriate cadet-to-cadet fraternization at CAP activities
- Dating a cadet (bright line rule)
- Sexting with or about a cadet
- Lodging with a cadet, except family members
- Showering or dressing / undressing in sight of cadets, or watching cadets do the same
- Providing drugs or alcohol to a cadet

Adult leaders who violate one of these key CPP provisions will face a 60-day punitive membership suspension, plus a 1-step demotion in grade, at a minimum.

See § 2.10
No substantive changes have been made to CAP’s internal processes, but now a visual aid is available.
Administrative Updates

**CAPP 60-14, First Talk Guide**, February 2018
Previously CAPP 52-26
Updated cross-references; no substantive changes
Previous edition may be used
Available online for print-on-demand

**CAPP 60-15, Cadet Protection Policy Implementation Guide**
Previously CAPP 52-23
Updated cross-references; no substantive changes
Previous edition may be used
Available online for print-on-demand

**CAPVA 60-104, Cadet Protection Poster**
Previously unnumbered
Updated cross-references; no substantive changes
Previous edition may be used
Available online for print-on-demand
Hard copy mailed to every squadron in January 2018
Final Word

“You were trusted by so many and took advantage of countless athletes and their families . . . Abuse goes way beyond the moment, often haunting survivors for the rest of their lives . . .

“My dream is that one day, everyone will know what the words, ‘Me too,’ signify, but they will be educated and able to protect themselves from predators.”

Aly Raisman
Olympic gymnast
speaking at her abuser’s sentencing hearing
January 2018