

RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND INSTRUCTION 5370.1

Subj: FRATERNIZATION

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5370.2B
(b) NTCGLAKESINST 5370.3E

1. Purpose. To promulgate policy regarding fraternization for Recruit Training Command (RTC).

2. Policy.

a. "Fraternization," as discussed in references (a) and (b), is the traditional term used to identify personal relationships which contravene the customary bounds of acceptable senior-subordinate relationships. Although it has most commonly been applied to officer-enlisted relationships, fraternization also includes improper relationships and social interaction between officer members as well as between enlisted members.

b. Reference (b) already prohibits personal relationships that are unduly familiar between staff and student personnel who are assigned to component and tenant activities located at Naval Station, Great Lakes. Due to the unique nature of this command's training mission, the definition of student personnel must be tailored in order to maintain good order and discipline and to avoid bringing discredit to the naval service.

3. Definitions. The following definitions are applicable for interpretation of this instruction.

a. Student Personnel. All current trainees stationed at RTC, and all former RTC trainees who execute or are pending execution of follow-on PCS orders to any naval training command for training purposes, regardless of location, are designated students and remain students for the duration of their training pipeline. This definition is more expansive than the definition of student as defined in reference (b) since it is not limited only to personnel assigned to training commands located at Naval Station, Great Lakes.

b. Staff Personnel. All personnel, military or civilian, assigned to RTC as instructors, recruit division commanders, or in support of mission operations are designated staff.

c. Fraternization. Fraternalization consists of unduly familiar relationships between officers and enlisted members, between officer members, between enlisted member, and between staff and student that are prejudicial to good order and discipline or service discrediting.

d. Unduly Familiar. Conduct that is unduly familiar includes, but is not limited to, the following specific activities:

(1) Dating, sharing living quarters, intimate or sexual relations, and/or other similar socializing including inappropriate displays of affection.

(2) Arranging or attempting to arrange personal/social encounters.

(3) Engaging in private business activities.

(4) Any nonprofessional social relationship of a personal nature.

(5) Gambling and borrowing money.

e. Prejudicial To Good Order and Discipline or Service Discrediting. Prejudice to good order and discipline or discredit to the naval service may result from, but are not limited to, circumstances which:

(1) Calls into question a senior's objectivity.

(2) Results in actual or apparent preferential treatment.

(3) Undermines the authority of the senior.

(4) Compromises the chain of command.

(5) Injures the reputation of the naval service or has a tendency to bring the naval service into disrepute or lower it in public esteem.

f. Attempt. To constitute an attempt, there needs to be a specific intent to engage in a personal/social encounter accompanied by an act that constitutes a direct movement toward the consummation of the personal/social encounter. The act must amount to more than mere preparation. "Preparation" consists of devising or arranging the means or measures necessary for arranging the personal/social encounter.

5. Responsibilities and Prohibitions.

a. All unduly familiar relationships between staff and student, regardless of rank or grade, are per se prejudicial to good order and discipline or of a nature to bring discredit on the naval service and are prohibited.

b. Personal relationships between officer and enlisted members that are unduly familiar, are per se, prejudicial to good order and discipline or of a nature to bring discredit on the naval service and are prohibited.

c. Chief Petty Officers (E-7 to E-9) have a unique leadership responsibility, such that unduly familiar relationships between Chief Petty Officers and junior personnel (E-1 to E-6) within RTC are per se, prejudicial to good order and discipline or of a nature to bring discredit on the naval service and are prohibited. Due to the heightened status, obligations, and responsibilities of Chief Petty Officers, unduly familiar relationships with junior personnel, even when in different commands, may be deemed prejudicial to good order and discipline.

d. Unduly familiar officer-officer relationships or enlisted-enlisted relationships, when prejudicial to good order and discipline or of a nature to bring discredit on the naval service, are prohibited.

e. All members are expected to observe proper standards of behavior and to enforce those standards. All personnel will avoid, terminate, or otherwise control situations which may lead to or involve fraternization. Although the responsibility for prevention of fraternization rests primarily with the senior, both members are accountable for their conduct.

f. Service members who are married or otherwise related to other service members must maintain the requisite respect and decorum attending the official relationship while either is on duty or in uniform in a public place.

g. All members have an affirmative duty to report violations of this instruction to the chain of command.

h. Clarification of questionable situations should be sought through the chain of command immediately.

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(List I, Case A)