

CHAPTER 2

ADF CADETS MILITARY-LIKE ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

3.2.1 A distinguishing feature of the ADF Cadets is participation in activities in a military setting. These Military-Like Activities (MLA) promote characteristics such as leadership, team-work, self-esteem, resilience and respect amongst ADF Cadets participants. However, MLA may involve elevated risk factors for inexperienced youth and must therefore be conducted in a safe and secure manner which is consistent with domestic and international protocols.

POLICY INTENT

3.2.2 This policy outlines the minimum requirements for the safe and appropriate conduct of MLA within ADF Cadets consistent with domestic and international requirements.

POLICY PRACTICES AND MEASURES

3.2.3 All MLA are to be conducted in accordance with domestic legislation and policies, along with Australia's commitment to the [United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child](#) and the [Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict](#).

3.2.4 The Director General Australian Navy Cadets and Reserves (DGANCR), Commander Australian Army Cadets (COMD AAC) and the Director General Cadets – Air Force (DGCADETS-AF) are to ensure that all MLA in their respective Cadet programs are:

- a. planned in a manner consistent with State/Territory and Commonwealth legislation, relevant Defence and ADF Cadets policies, and the United Nations Convention and Protocol
- b. conducted with the best interests and wellbeing (physical, psychological and emotional) of cadets as the primary consideration
- c. not to involve under any circumstance, the real or simulated use of force to an enemy, opposition or another human in order to achieve domination over them
- d. voluntary and age-appropriate
- e. observing of any restrictions limiting a cadet's involvement in MLA, such as religious beliefs, medical conditions, or any other considerations as notified by the cadet's parent/guardian (if under 18 years of age). Information relating to reasonable adjustments relative to limitations can be found in the [Part 1 Section 6 Chapter 4](#).

3.2.5 Annex A provides further guidance relating to types of MLA not to be undertaken by ADF Cadets.

3.2.6 Information on the nature of MLA conducted within the ADF Cadets is freely available to the public. DGANCR, COMD AAC and DGCADETS-AF are to ensure that the following is explained to prospective adults, cadets and the parents/guardians of cadets during the application process, to enable 'informed consent' for participation:

- a. The nature and extent of MLA conducted in their respective Cadet programs.
- b. Participation in MLA is voluntary.
- c. Participation in the ADF Cadets and the associated participation in MLA is not a prerequisite for acceptance into the ADF.

3.2.7 Cadets must have specific written parental or guardian consent to be involved in MLA. If a cadet is under 18 years of age and recognised as living independently, in accordance with state or territory legislation, they may seek approval from DGANCR, COMD AAC and DGCADETS-AF for an exemption from the parental permission requirements.

RELATED INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

[United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
[Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict](#)

Accountable Officer: Chief of Joint Capabilities (CJC)

Policy Officer: Head Joint Support Services Division (HJSSD)

PROHIBITED MILITARY LIKE ACTIVITIES

ADF Cadets do not participate in any activity that equips or trains them for actual offensive or defensive military capability. Consistent with this requirement, activities not to be undertaken by ADF Cadets include:

- bayonet training
- use of explosives
- any simulation or computer-based games depicting combat or combat related activities
- paintball games involving human or animal targets
- participation in opposed survival exercises
- aggressive unarmed combat (defensive martial arts is acceptable)
- activity involving the firing at (live, dry or simulated), or use of a weapon towards, any target (real or simulated) that resembles or represents a human or animal i.e. laser tag which may contain a human (e.g. tank, aircraft, building)
- use of grenades (live or practice) other than smoke grenades or signal flares used for training that is related to emergency situations such as casualty evacuations (casevacs), helicopter pickups and non-warlike MLA
- any activity that depicts or portrays violence or oppression towards an individual or group
- warlike or hostile tactics and drills, such as ambush techniques, attacks, battle scenarios, and mock killing or injuring
- any act (real or implied) that detains, incarcerates, imprisons or imposes any form of capture
- any scenario based on, or using, the terms 'enemy', 'combat', 'battle', 'war', 'aggression / aggressive', 'fight / fighting', or other words with similar intent.