

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE CADETS

MILITARY-LIKE ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Military-Like Activities (MLA) are a distinguishing feature of the Australian Defence Force Cadets (ADF Cadets) and promote characteristics such as leadership, team-work, self-esteem, resilience and respect amongst ADF Cadets members through participation in activities in a military setting.

1.2 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* (the Convention) and the *Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict* (the Protocol).

POLICY INTENT

1.3 This policy outlines the minimum requirements for the safe and appropriate conduct of MLA consistent with domestic and international requirements.

POLICY PRINCIPLE

1.4 The principle that underpins this policy is:

a. Principle 1 - All ADF Cadets MLA are compliant with domestic and international requirements.

POLICY PRACTICES AND MEASURES

1.5 All MLA must be conducted in a manner consistent with State/Territory and Commonwealth legislation, relevant Defence and ADF Cadets policies, and the Convention and the Protocol.

1.6 All MLA in the ADF Cadets program are conducted with the best interests and wellbeing (physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing) of cadets as the primary consideration.

1.7 Information on the nature of MLA conducted within the ADF Cadets is freely available to the public, prospective ADF Cadets members, and accepted ADF Cadets members, to enable 'informed consent' for participation.

1.8 Participation in MLA is voluntary and age-appropriate.

1.9 Restrictions limiting a cadet's involvement in MLA, such as religious beliefs, medical condition(s), or any other consideration(s) as notified by the cadet's parent/guardian (if under 18 years of age), are to be observed. Information relating to reasonable adjustments relative to limitations can be found in the Youth Policy Manual Part 1 Chapter 10 Diversity.

1.10 Minors must have specific written parental or guardian consent to be involved in MLA.

1.11 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 the Vice Chief of the Defence Force (VCDF) through the relevant Service Chief for an exemption from the parental permission requirements.

1.12 Under no circumstance is an MLA to involve the real or simulated use of force to an enemy, opposition or another human in order to achieve domination over them. Annex A provides further guidance relating to types of MLA not to be undertaken by ADF Cadets.

1.13 Membership in the ADF Cadets and the associated participation in MLA is not a prerequisite for acceptance into the ADF.

RELATED INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

1.14 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

1.15 Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

Accountable Officer: The Vice Chief of the Defence Force

Policy Officer: Head Reserve and Youth Division

PROHIBITED MILITARY LIKE ACTIVITIES

1. ADF Cadets do not participate in any activity that equips or trains them for actual offensive or defensive military capability. Consistent with this requirement, the following activities are not to be undertaken by ADF Cadets:
 - 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 ie laser tag or which may contain a human (ie 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 casevacs, and 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