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HEADQUARTERS, XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS AND FORT BRAGG
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AFZA-JAA

22 September 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR Soldiers and Civilians of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg

SUBJECT: Corps Policy Letter #13, Airborne Officer Prop Blast

1. References.

a. ATP 5-19 (Composite Risk Management), 14 April 2014, with Change 1 (8 September 2014).

b. AR 600-20 (Army Command Policy), 6 November 2014.

2. Purpose. To establish XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg policy pertaining to the conduct of Airborne Officer Prop Blasts.

3. Applicability. This policy applies to all units assigned or attached to the 82d Airborne Division and XVIII Airborne Corps.

4. This policy memorandum supersedes XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg Master Policy #66, published on 28 July 2014.

5. General. The airborne community has a ceremony for newly qualified officers to enhance morale, esprit de corps, pride, professionalism and unit cohesiveness. The ceremony is called a "Prop Blast." A Prop Blast ceremony usually consists of a history event, training event and a social event. When a Prop Blast is conducted with taste and dignity, it increases esprit de corps and encourages a deeper understanding of the airborne community.

6. Policy. The decision to conduct a Prop Blast ceremony is within the discretion of the unit commander, subject to the approval required in subparagraph 6d. Prop Blasts will be team building events focusing on unit lineage, history, and esprit de corps among unit officers. Commanders will ensure that Prop Blasts are conducted with military dignity and good taste. Commanders will further ensure that appropriate medical personnel are present throughout the event. Prior to conducting any Prop Blast ceremony or off-duty sponsored activity, commanders will ensure a DA Form 7566, Composite Risk Management Worksheet, is completed in accordance with reference a. The form must be approved by the identified risk decision level authority and must be completed for each discreet event. In conducting Prop Blasts, commanders must strictly adhere to the following:

a. Participation in a Prop Blast ceremony is purely voluntary. Individual participation will not be obtained through coercion or intimidation. An officer's decision not to participate will have no negative impact on his/her performance evaluation.

b. Prop Blasts will not promote the abuse of alcoholic beverages. Consuming alcoholic beverages will not be a requisite part of the Prop Blast. If toasting occurs, it will be done in moderation and will not focus attention on individuals who prefer not to consume alcoholic beverages. A non-alcoholic substitute will be available for those who choose it.

c. No alcohol will be consumed until the conclusion of the Prop Blast ceremony. Participants are prohibited from possessing, introducing, or consuming their own alcohol during any portion of the event. The only alcohol permitted after the conclusion of the Prop Blast ceremony is that which has been planned for and made available by the unit conducting the event.

d. All proposed Prop Blast ceremonies will receive a legal review prior to approval of the ceremony.

e. If a unit makes alcohol available after its Prop Blast ceremony, unit planning will include a plan to mitigate the risk for over-indulgence during the event. Participants are generally exhausted at the end of the training portion of a Prop Blast ceremony. As a result, units that make alcohol available must diligently guard against accidental over-indulgence.

f. Soldiers will not be subjected to any activities that degrade, demean, or humiliate them, nor will Soldiers be subjected to treatment intended to be cruel, abusive, oppressive, or harmful or are otherwise prohibited by reference b. Specific examples of inappropriate activities include, but are not limited to: electrical shocking of participants; performance of aircraft exits from apparatus not specifically designed to train individuals in proper techniques for aircraft exits; any activities requiring the wear of inappropriate makeup, derisive articles, or uniform accoutrements; and any conduct that demeans the race, gender, nationality, or religion of participants.

g. Participation in a Prop Blast ceremony will not be denied on a basis of race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation.

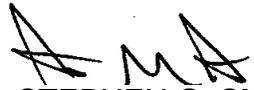
7. Approval Requirements.

a. The first general officer in the chain of command will approve the overall concept of a Prop Blast.

AFZP-JAA

SUBJECT: Corps Policy Letter #13, Airborne Officer Prop Blast

b. An officer in the grade of COL (O-6) or above will approve the Prop Blast Memorandum of Instruction (MOI) and personally supervise the ceremony's execution. The supervising officer must personally ensure that all participants are true volunteers and that no abusive, harassing, or hazing activities occur during the ceremony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. G. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

STEPHEN G. SMITH
COL, FA
Chief of Staff