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Subject: AN ADFA OFFICER CADET HAS ALLEGEDLY BEEN THE VICTIM OF A
PHYSICAL AND VERBAL ASSAULT

Comment.
Action Area COM-ADFA

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HOT ISSUES BRIEF ADFA 02/11

**ISSUE: AN ADFA OFFICER CADET HAS
ALLEGEDLY BEEN
THE VICTIM OF A PHYSICAL AND VERBAL
ASSAULT**

SENSITIVITY: High. A female Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) Air Force Officer Cadet was allegedly assaulted and verbally abused by a male ADFA Army Officer Cadet.

KEY ISSUES:

- At approximately 2200 h on 14 April 2011, a group of cadets were drinking in the Academy Cadets Mess. It is believed that they were rowdy, and their behaviour was reported to the Academy Duty Officer by bar staff.
- While walking back to the accommodation blocks, a male officer cadet fell and grazed his head.
- On arrival at the accommodation blocks, a female officer cadet heard of the injury to the male officer cadet, and attempted to assist him.
- The male officer cadet allegedly verbally abused her while trying to swing a punch. He missed the female officer cadet.

- The female officer cadet left the room, and a short time later went back with a wet towel with the intent of helping the male officer cadet who had sustained a mild head injury.
- The male officer cadet apparently "slap-pushed" her in the shoulder area twice and again verbally abused her.
- The ADFA Duty Officer was called and took the male officer cadet to the Duntroon Health Centre where he was admitted overnight.
- The Duty Officer checked on the welfare of the female officer cadet and the incident was recorded in the duty log book.
- A Quick Assessment was conducted and on Friday 15 April, and the Australian Defence Force Investigative Service (ADFIS) were informed.
- ADFIS attended and spoke with the female officer cadet.
- ADFIS have advised ADFA that they will conduct a further investigation into the incident.

BACKGROUND:

- The female officer cadet was offered medical support, however she declined. She has spoken to her Divisional Staff and ADFA psychologists.
- The female officer cadet suffered no injury from the alleged assault.
- There is no indication that this alleged assault is in any way related to the 'Skype video' incident.

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Date issued: 15 Apr 11

TALKING POINTS:

- The Australian Defence Force Academy is aware of an allegation that an assault took place between two officer cadets on Thursday 14 April 2011.
- It has been alleged that the two cadets were involved in a physical and verbal altercation.
- The matter was immediately referred to the Academy Duty Officer who took one of the cadets to the Duntroon Health Centre, to treat an unrelated injury.
- Neither cadet was seriously injured; however both were offered medical and pastoral support.
- The incident was reported to the Australian Defence Force Investigative Service for further investigation.
- There is nothing to indicate that this incident is connected to the 'Skype video' incident.
- As the matter is under investigation, it would not be appropriate to comment further at this time.

If pressed:

- It is unfortunate that incidents of unacceptable behaviour occasionally occur at the Academy. While

the alleged incident is unacceptable, the reporting and response has been immediate and appropriate.

- ADFA will continue to support the authorities in their investigation in order to ensure that this incident is fully dealt with.

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date Time Group
<i>Cleared by: (Group/Service)</i>	COL Petersen	A/COMDT ADFA	15 Apr 11
<i>Cleared by: (other Group/Service)</i>			
<i>Cleared by: (Public Affairs)</i>	Rod Dudfield	DCAM	15 Apr 11
<i>Ministerial Action (tick one)</i>			
<i>Forwarded to / Cleared by:</i>			