OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

8 May 2023 **ADM POL 2.001**
Memorandum for Staff, Faculty, and Coaches
Subject: Cell Phone and Smartwatch Policy
Reference: Cadet Handbook, Faculty Handbook, Cadet Technology Use Policy and Agreement

1. **General**
   a. Missouri Military Academy supports the cultivation of healthy digital habits for cadets. Cadets' possession and use of cell phones or smartwatches, while not required or needed, is considered a privilege that is earned. This privilege may be rescinded at any time by any staff member, faculty, or coach.
   b. This policy recognizes and addresses the constant and significant challenges associated with cell phones:
      1) Cadets communicating - without restrictions - with unknown persons who may have harmful and/or misleading intentions.
      2) Cadets visiting inappropriate websites.
      3) Cadets using picture taking, video, and recording capabilities inappropriately
      4) Cadets exchanging inappropriate pictures and messages.
      5) Cadets storing and sharing inappropriate content.
      6) Cadets using these devices for academic dishonesty.
      7) Cadets using cell phones to communicate with other persons to circumvent or break Academy rules (e.g., contraband trafficking, black market networks, avoiding adult supervision, gaining access to unauthorized areas/locations).
      8) Excessive and addictive use of video gaming capabilities.
      9) Potential safety issues due to inattentiveness and distractions when cell phones are used with headphones or earbuds.
      10) Compromised security of MMA's internal network or bypassing internal network with use of cell phone hotspots and data capabilities for internet.
   c. Inappropriate use of cell phones jeopardizes cadets' ability to fully benefit from their academic, athletic, extracurricular, and leadership experiences at MMA. Some of our cadets are extremely dependent and rely too heavily on these phones. We must provide proper guidance and supervision.
   d. Partnership with parents concerning cadets' social development, healthy cell phone use and the support of this policy, including the successful enforcement of Academy policies and accountability for violations, is critical to cadet success. We view this policy as a positive aspect of cadets attending MMA.
   e. Cadets have the capability to email, video chat, or use of the company phone every evening during personal time, and the Academy encourages cadets to regularly communicate with their families-The inability to use a cell phone is not a valid excuse for cadets to not stay in contact with their families.

2. **Purpose:** This policy provides guidance regarding cadets' acceptable use of cell phones and/or smartwatches with established rewards and consequences in accordance with the rules outlined in the Cadet Handbook.

3. Responsibilities

Staff, faculty, and coaches must proactively address the significant challenges in Section 1.b above. We must guide our cadets in making the right decisions concerning cell phone use, presence on the internet, and social media activities so that they do not break Academy rules, violate state or federal laws, harm their reputations, and jeopardize their futures. We want them to spend their time wisely, cultivate positive relationships with fellow cadets, and engage in positive activities not associated with phones and electronics. Our goal is for cadets to moderate and properly manage their use of cell phones.

4. Policy

a. Parent or guardians can request a more restrictive policy for their cadet. This must be done via email and for a minimum of four-week time periods.
b. Rules for cell phones apply to smartwatches.
c. The Academy will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged cell phones or charges to any cadet cell phone accounts.
d. Cadets are allowed to bring one cell phone and one smartwatch to campus. Cadets found with more than one phone or smartwatch (real or fake) will lose all cell phone privileges for 10 weeks.
e. All cell phone numbers and current passcodes must be provided to the commandant's office as a condition for having a phone. Every cadet must protect their phones with a passcode. Failure to provide the commandant's office with current passcode constitutes a violation of this policy.
f. Access to cell phones using passcodes by staff or faculty will be done with parent knowledge.
g. Cadets who bring cell phones or smartwatches to campus will be required to check those devices in for safe keeping with their respective company leadership advisor (CLA) starting at 1700 on Sunday afternoons after general leave has ended and prior to the evening meal. Cadets in good standing will be allowed to check out their cell phones and smartwatches after the evening meal.
h. Seniors and any cadet who has earned the academic distinction of Delta Phi or Honor Society may keep their cell phones and smartwatches if they meet the following requirements:
    1) Must have attended MMA for at least two complete semesters.
    2) Cadets must possess two "consecutive" marking periods with a GPA of 3.0 or better with no grades of "D" or "F."
    3) Cadets must be in good standing (academically, deportment, and athletic participation with coaches. (or extracurricular activity sponsor confirmation).
    4) Cadets must have deportment grade of "B" or better.
h. No cadets (to include seniors, Delta Phi and Honor Society) will be allowed to have their cell phones or smartwatches in the academic building or off-campus academic classes, at athletic practices, at home athletic games, or at any corps activities or events designated by the commandant at any time. For this reason, any cadet authorized to have a cell phone during the week will be required to keep the phone locked up in his room prior to the first daily formation until after night study hall.
i. Cell phones are not authorized for away games or extracurricular activities unless travel involves overnight stays or coaches/sponsor specifically requests authorization from the commandant.
j. On weekends cell phones will not be used between the hours of taps and reveille. During these hours, cell phones will be kept secured in individual lock boxes.
k. Cadets will not loan or let other cadets use their cell phone or share passcodes.
l. Cadets are strictly forbidden from selling their cell phone to other cadets.
m. The use of cellular "hot-spot" capability on cell phones is strictly forbidden in order to prevent cadet internet access outside of MMA's approved networks and approved internet usage schedule.

n. The use of virtual private networks (VPN) (or any anti-filtering software to circumvent MMA's network policies and protections) by cadets is strictly forbidden. This practice poses a threat to our network security.
o. Cadets refusing to surrender their cell phone, when requested, will immediately lose privileges for the rest of the school year.
p. Cadets caught using cell phones for unauthorized activity in violation of this policy will lose phone privileges and surrender their phone to staff, faculty, or coach. Unauthorized activities include:
    1) Sending inappropriate emails or texting.
    2) Taking, storing, or sending (email, text) inappropriate pictures and videos.
    3) Using or in possession of another cadet's cell phone for any reason (except emergency), both cadets will lose privileges.
    4) Taking pictures, recording video or voice of staff, faculty, or other cadets without their permission.
    5) Possessing more than one phone to include a "dummy" cell phone.
    6) Cyber bullying, harassing, or threating emails or texts.
    7) Violating the Honor Code through the use of a cell phone.
    8) Using a cell phone to break any Academy rule outlined in the Cadet Handbook.
q. Violations of this policy will result in loss of weekend cell phone privileges for the following periods unless otherwise specified above:
    1) First Offense: Loss of privilege for three consecutive weekends. Loss of senior or Delta Phi privileges for eight weeks.
    2) Second Offense: Loss of privilege for sixteen weeks.
    3) Third Offense: No privileges for the remainder of the academic year.
    4) The commandant may revoke cell phone privileges for cause, for any amount of time.
    5) Any time a cadet loses his cell phone privileges, parents will be notified and annotated in his cadet record.
r. Cadet leaders who violate cell phone policy risk losing leadership positions.

5. Cadets will be authorized their cell phone when traveling to and from home. Other exceptions concerning Academy field trips and travel may be recommended by the commandant or dean and approved by the president.

6. Every cadet will be required to sign the cell phone pledge acknowledging that they have read, been briefed and understand the cell phone/smartwatch policy.

7. Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to the commandant of cadets.



Richard V. Geraci
Brigadier General, USA (Ret)
President