



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL  
YOKOSUKA, JAPAN  
PSC 475, BOX 1  
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IN REPLY REFER TO  
5370  
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**30 Jun 20**

### U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL YOKOSUKA POLICY STATEMENT "FRATERNIZATION"

Fraternization is the term used to identify personal relationships or social interactions that are unduly familiar and do not appropriately respect differences in grade or rank. Overly familiar or inappropriate relationships may create circumstances that result in preferential treatment or compromise the chain of command. Fraternalization undermines good order and discipline and is therefore prohibited.

Although fraternization has most commonly been applied to relationships between officers and enlisted, rules prohibiting fraternization are equally applicable to improper relationships and social interactions between officers, civilians, and enlisted members, regardless of gender. Fraternalization includes personal relationships between chief petty officers and junior personnel assigned to the same command.

Personnel engaged in prohibited relationships or behaviors will be subject to administrative and/or disciplinary action regardless of rate or rank. Appropriate social interaction among staff members has always been encouraged to enhance teamwork and unit morale. U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokosuka, Japan staff are expected to maintain the highest personal and professional standards in all their relationships, both on and off duty.

Additional information on fraternization is available in OPNAVINST 5370.2D or from the Command Managed Equal Opportunity Advisor.

*C. C. Rice*  
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