

Welcome POLA Cadets,

I am Chief Morgan, USN (ret), Commanding Officer of Winter POLA Florida. On behalf of my officers and staff, it is my privilege to welcome you to this training and commend you on your choice to further your training in the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

Some of you may not be too excited for this particular training as you may have heard that it is “boring” and there is a lot of class room time. **I urge you to come with an open mind.** I believe you will learn things to assist you, not only in your Sea Cadet career, but in life outside the Corps.

You should take great pride in your service with the Sea Cadets; I know I do.

ALL hands are expected to abide by the Navy’s core values of honor, courage and commitment. These core values should be the guiding force behind your decisions and actions, whether here at training, at your home unit during drill, or even in your life outside of Sea Cadets. You are on the path to becoming a more thoroughly trained Sea Cadet, and you are expected to live up to our values so you can help instill them to those cadets following your lead.

You are not kids, you are young adults, you are Cadets, some of you are even Petty Officers and, as such, I know you know the difference between right and wrong. Remember why you are coming here and where you are at all times. This is not the place for horse play, kidding around, or saying “but I was only kidding, I didn’t mean it!” If you haven’t already learned this lesson in life, it’s time you did. Words have meaning, and all of us, including you, are accountable for your words and actions.

ALL MALES MUST HAVE REGULATION HAIR CUTS AT CHECK IN OR YOU WILL BE SENT HOME!!!!

I’ll now explain the CO’ Top 6, which are an inspectable item at the training for **ALL HANDS**. The following acts or behaviors absolutely **WILL NOT** be tolerated at this training, or at your home units; **none** of them have any place at Sea Cadets.

Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature that interferes with an individual’s performance, or creates an intimidating or hostile work environment. This policy is gender neutral, and applies

the same way to male or females at the training. This is not the place for jokes, kidding, or teasing about sexuality, flirting, or connecting on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat for dates later. Leave that at home; it's not what you're here for.

Racism: we are a color blind, gender blind organization. There is no place in Sea Cadets for ignorant biases, racism, sexism, or bigotry. Discrimination of any kind does not belong here, and will not be tolerated.

Fraternization: Fraternization is an unduly familiar relationship between superiors and subordinates that is prejudicial to good order and discipline. Fraternization weakens the chain of command by creating favoritism, or the appearance of favoritism in our training environment. Everyone here has a job to do; your job is to learn everything we need to teach you, and the best way for all of us to succeed at our jobs is to be professional, keep your mouths shut, and your eyes and ears open.

Cadet to Cadet Contact: There is to be no cadet to cadet contact; keep your hands to yourself! Any relationships between Cadets must be professional in all respects. Focus on your mission, and focus on your division's success.

Hazing: Hazing is conduct that causes a Cadet to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is abusive, humiliating, oppressive, or harmful, even if the victim is a willing participant. This kind of behavior is unacceptable.

Substance abuse: we have a zero tolerance policy that covers illegal drugs, as well as prescription and over the counter medications. All of your medications will be confiscated at check-in. You cannot take any medication here, unless it is prescribed **to you** and administered by our adult staff. Sharing your medications with other Cadets is also strictly prohibited.

Violations of any of these activities will result in immediate disciplinary action, and may include Extra Military Instruction, or even dismissal from training to be returned home **at the parents' expense**. All accusations regarding the CO's Top 6 will be taken seriously, and investigated thoroughly. Statements or accusations determined to be knowingly false will carry the same penalty as the violation itself.

Here are some training Keys to Success:

Work hard, listen attentively, and stay out of trouble. You know right from wrong; remember why you're here. I know each of you wants to succeed. While POLA may not be the most demanding training, you should always strive to do your best. Focus on the positive things, the things that brought you to training; your goals, your dreams and your willingness to learn how to be the best leader you can be.

Shipmates support shipmates. If you see someone having a rough time, do what you can to help them through it. You will be helping yourself as well as your team.

Remember that in just seven short days of training, you will be looking forward to graduation and to all of the amazing advanced training opportunities Sea Cadets has to offer graduates of POLA. The officers and staff will train, mentor and motivate you to succeed. When they speak, I suggest that you listen. You will take your place as part of a proud tradition older than many of your parents.

Don't quit on me, your officers or staff, but most importantly, don't quit on yourselves. Remember, the biggest change during your time at POLA should be in you. Stay focused on the pride you will share with your family and friends at graduation. The proudest face that you will see on graduation day will be looking back at you from the mirror.

Welcome aboard POLA cadets, we can't wait to further your journey of learning great leadership skills!