



10 ADFA cadets now suspended over drunken pub crawl bastardisation scandal

A BASTARDISATION scandal culminating in a drunken pub crawl has seen a total of 10 future military leaders suspended.

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A TOTAL of 10 future military leaders from the Australian Defence Force Academy have been suspended over their roles in the latest bastardisation scandal to hit the elite taxpayer-funded military university.

Up to 20 cadets and midshipmen are under investigation over a series of incidents that culminated in a drunken pub/club crawl last month in Canberra by members of the academy's rugby and AFL clubs.

During the so-called "hazing" or initiation rituals that went on over several months, cadets were allegedly forced to;

- * Fondle other cadets' genitalia
- * Drink urine
- * Have sex with a prostitute for a bet
- * Remove their pants when a particular song was played

Some cadets allegedly were also forced to stand on their heads while drinking.

Seven of the 10 suspensions took place before the vice-chief of Defence, Air Marshal Mark Binskin, who is responsible for ADFA, went public with details of the incidents.

Defence has denied claims from some insiders that the investigation has hit a brick wall.

"ADF Investigative Service personnel are continuing to make inquiries and take statements. A total of ten ADFA officer cadets and midshipmen have now been suspended and further suspensions may occur," Defence said.

"The vast majority of ADFA cadets and midshipmen understand what is expected of them as future leaders of the ADF and they act accordingly."

However News Corp Australia has been told investigators cannot substantiate many of the allegations due to wildly differing accounts of timings and locations from alleged perpetrators and whistleblowers.

"No one is admitting to any of the serious allegations," a Defence source said.

The move follows the suspension of eight senior soldiers, including elite commandos, from the army over the so-called "Jedi Council" video sex email ring.

A further 90 troops remain under investigation by the ADF Investigative Service in relation to the email scandal where women were filmed having sex with ringleaders who distributed the images and a dossier on the women to other members of the defence force.

Defence said its senior leadership team was "strongly committed to ensuring that those who cannot meet Defence's values and standards will be held to account for their conduct."

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