

## CFAO 27-12 -- PROVISION, SERVING AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

### PURPOSE

1. This order amplifies QR&O 19.04 and prescribes the policy governing the provision, serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages within the Canadian Forces (CF).

### APPLICATION

2. This order applies to all CF facilities and functions including, but not restricted to, messes, CANEX lounges and restaurants, specialty interest clubs and facilities, social centres, DND armouries, unit dances, section parties, farewells, and other ad hoc occasions whether held on DND property or elsewhere.

### POLICY

3. The commanding officer of a base, station, unit or other element of the Canadian Forces shall establish and promulgate orders governing the times, locations and conditions for the introduction, serving and consumption of alcohol at facilities and functions of his unit. The objective of these orders shall be to:

- a. promote responsible attitudes and practices in order to avoid or reduce domestic or social problems and the adverse effects on health and work performance associated with immoderate use of alcohol; and
- b. ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to avoid contributing to injury or death resulting from the consumption of alcohol served at CF facilities or CF-sponsored functions.

4. While the orders may take into consideration the special nature, circumstances and roles of individual units, as far as is practical having regard to the exigences of the service, they shall include provisions which ensure that:

- a. there is no doubt that the orders apply to all unit facilities and functions where alcohol is served or consumed;
- b. the standards of care for the serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages conform with those established by provincial and municipal laws;

c. the sale of alcoholic beverages is not subsidized or discounted.  
Provisions should therefore include -

(1) a prohibition on the operation of bars except on a profit-making or break-even basis, and

(2) a prohibition on "Happy Hour" or "two for one", etc. specials;

Note - This does not preclude subsidization at hosted functions held at the discretion of the base/station commander.

d. non-alcoholic beverages, attractive in price and presentation, are available at all outlets where alcohol is served;

e. contests, competitions or stunts based on immoderate drinking of alcoholic beverages are prohibited (eg, "chug-a-lug" beer-drinking contests, etc);

f. provision to, or consumption of alcoholic beverages by, military or civilian personnel who are under the legal drinking age in the province in which the unit is located is prohibited;

g. honour bars and vending machines that dispense alcoholic beverages are controlled to prevent their use by ineligible personnel;

h. persons in an intoxicated or apparently intoxicated condition shall not be served alcohol at CF-controlled facilities or functions;

j. individual members of the CF are made aware that -

(1) the primary responsibility for the wise and moderate consumption of alcohol and related behaviour rests with the consumer, and

(2) there is a potential for personal liability when serving alcohol at their home or other locations; and

k. a training and awareness program on the responsible service of alcoholic beverages is implemented for all personnel involved with the sale and/or serving of alcoholic beverages.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. For some time, Canadian courts have recognized a responsibility on the part of facilities and individuals to refrain from serving alcohol to individuals who are intoxicated or apparently intoxicated. In numerous cases where an intoxicated individual has become involved in an accident, the facility that continued to serve alcohol to an individual who was visibly intoxicated has been found partially liable for resulting damages. Depending upon the particular circumstances, such damages may run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

6. Besides the potential liability on the part of the facility, there is the obvious danger of liability on the part of the intoxicated individual for damages he may cause. Furthermore, individuals who, in an intoxicated condition, drive motor vehicles are subject to criminal prosecution which could result in serious consequences, eg, fine, period of incarceration, suspension of driver's licence, criminal record, etc.

## IMPLEMENTATION

7. Guidelines and supporting materials to assist units in implementing this policy will be published in A-PS-110-001/AG-003, Policy Governing Operation of Personnel Support Programs in the Canadian Forces, Volume 2, Administration of Personnel Support Programs in the CF.

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