



OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT  
**UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY**  
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996-1602

MACC

**USCC POLICY MEMORANDUM (CC-19-05)**

**SUBJECT:** Spirit Activities

1. **REFERENCE:** Army Regulation (AR) 600-20, Army Command Policy, Chapter 4, Military Discipline and Conduct, 6 November 2014.

2. **PURPOSE:** To establish the Commandant's policy governing spirit activities.

3. **POLICY:**

a. Spirit activities that generate camaraderie, esprit de corps, and teamwork are a part of the Army Profession. However, they must be planned and executed in a professional, safe and dignified manner under responsibility and supervision of the Cadet chain of command. Authorized spirit activities will have a unifying theme, involve voluntary participation, be conducted in accordance with the Army values, and honor the dignity and respect of all participants.

b. Authorized spirit activities will not be demeaning, involve physical contact with other persons, damage property, or result in misappropriation of property. Hazing, bullying, and other behaviors that undermine dignity and respect may not be authorized as spirit activities. Examples of unauthorized activities include, but are not limited to: "blood pinning", streaking, pillow fights, misappropriation of unit guidons, theft of unit mascots, "birthday parties" that involve humiliation and hazing, disparaging videos, and false impersonations intended to gain a benefit, avoid expense or cause harm.

c. By definition, authorized spirit activities do not have potential to bring discredit to USCC, USMA, or the Army. Service discrediting conduct includes behavior which tends to harm the reputation of USCC, USMA, or the Army, or which tends to lower their esteem in public opinion. This reputational harm may be attributed to social media or anonymous reporting.

d. Spirit activities during or related to Beat Air Force / Beat Navy Weeks will be coordinated with BTD and approved by the BTO.

4. **PUNITIVE ORDER:** This policy memorandum is punitive. Persons who violate this memorandum, either intentionally or negligently, may be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, be subject to adverse administrative action, or both.

MACC

SUBJECT: Spirit Activities

5. **EXPIRATION:** This policy memorandum remains in effect until superseded or rescinded.

6. **POINT OF CONTACT:** The proponent for this policy is the USCC SGS at x8653.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Buzzard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CURTIS A. BUZZARD  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commandant of Cadets