



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

09 AUG 2004

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Ms. Candi Penn
Executive Director, Hemp Industries Association
Post Office Box 1080
Occidental CA 95465

Mr. John Overstreet
Executive Director, Indoor Tanning Association
6620 Fletcher Lane
McLean VA 22101

Dear Ms. Penn and Mr. Overstreet

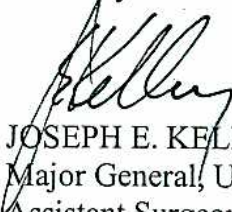
This letter is in response to your request of June 4, 2004 addressed to the Secretary of the Air Force regarding the Air Force policy on Airmen using tanning lotions, soaps, and other personal care items that contain hemp seed oil. The readiness of our members is our greatest priority, and illicit drug use places the members' continued service in jeopardy and can subject them to criminal prosecution. Our policies are always designed with fitness and readiness in mind.

In January 2001, the Air Force made a change to AFI 44-121, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) Program, to specifically prohibit Air Force members from ingesting hemp seed or hemp seed oil products. In order to ensure military readiness and to maintain the integrity of our drug-testing program, the ingestion of products containing or products derived from hemp seed or hemp seed oil is strictly prohibited. The use of skin care products containing hemp is not prohibited by this change.

Certain judge advocates are designated as defense counsel in order to zealously represent individual Airmen in adverse administrative and criminal matters. Defense counsels are encouraged to independently make Airmen broadly aware of risks that might damage their careers or land them in court. The defense counsel's independence is essential to a fair and impartial military justice system. The article by the Cannon Air Force Base Area Defense Counsel was her independent, cautionary advice to Airmen at Cannon about the possibility of unintended consequences from using tanning lotions and oils that contain hemp oil or hemp seed oil.

We trust this information is helpful in understanding our drug abuse prevention program as it relates to hemp oil products. Thank you for writing to express your concern. My point of contact for this issue is Lt Col Chris Robinson, Program Manager, Air Force Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment/Drug Demand Reduction Program (ADAPT/DDR), AFMSA/SGOF, 5201 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1501, Virginia 22041, (703) 681-6311 (DSN 761), or e-mail: Christopher.Robinson@pentagon.af.mil.

Sincerely



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